Pacquiao captures IBF super bantam title

STORY IN SPORTS, PAGE A23

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BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

MONDAY, JUNE 25, 2001 ★ 80 PAGES 5 SECTIONS VOL.16 NO. 197 P15

Tales of terror, woes also explode

BY ROLY EMBILE
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

TABACO CITY—To most of the people living within the 6-kilometer radius permanent danger zone around Mayon Volcano, their narrow escape from Saturday night's eruption was nothing short of a miracle.

TALES/A20

AP

MAYON ERUPTS

11,000 flee as volcano spews ash, lava

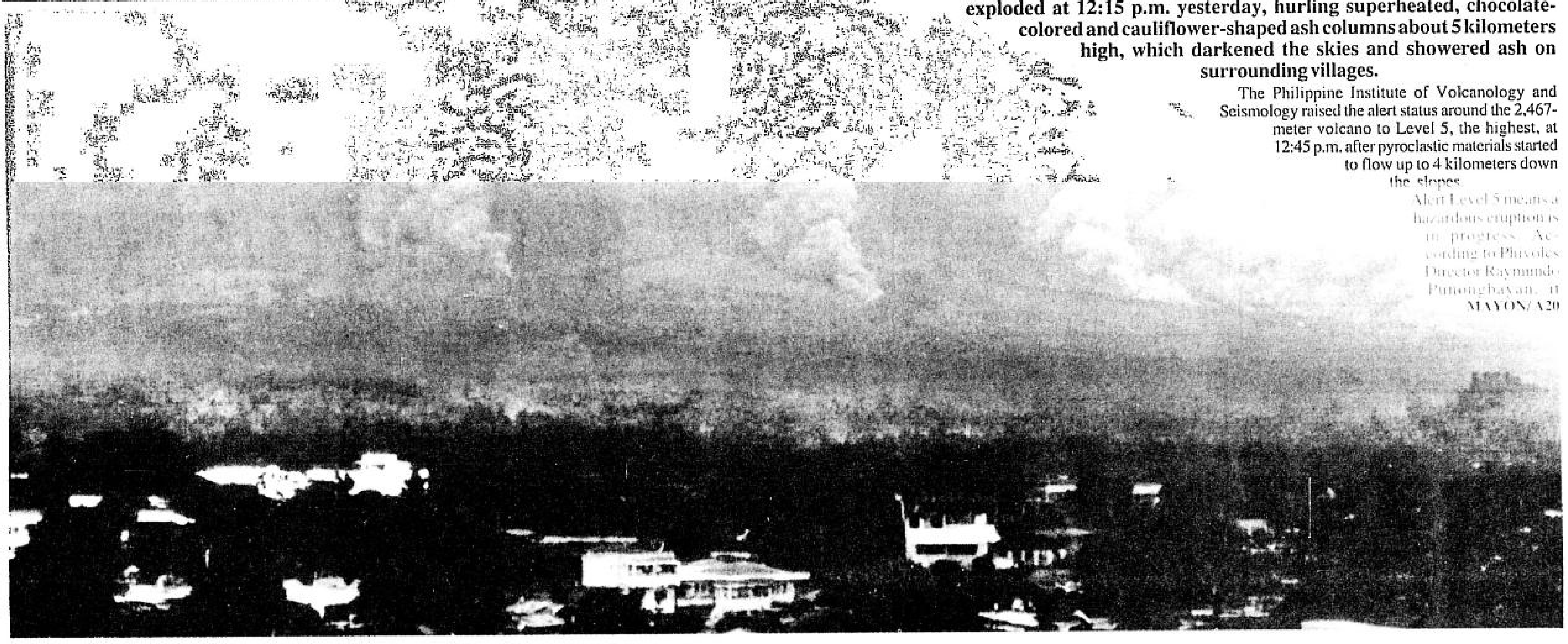
BY FLOREÑO G. SOLMIRANO AND REY NASOL
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

LEGAZPI CITY—After two weeks of fickleness, the Mayon Volcano exploded at 12:15 p.m. yesterday, hurling superheated, chocolate-colored and cauliflower-shaped ash columns about 5 kilometers high, which darkened the skies and showered ash on surrounding villages.

The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology raised the alert status around the 2,467-meter volcano to Level 5, the highest, at 12:45 p.m. after pyroclastic materials started to flow up to 4 kilometers down the slopes.

Alert Level 5 means a hazardous eruption is in progress. According to Phivolcs Director Raymundo Punongbayan, it

MAYON/A20



MAYON Volcano's fury: Fountain of lava (inset) at 7 p.m., Saturday, and pyroclastic materials cascading down the slopes at 2:50 p.m., Sunday. TONY MACASINAG/PDI SOUTHERN LUZON BUREAU

Gov't is now better prepared to crush plotters

BY AMANDO DORONILA

ANALYSIS

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo's warning of a plot to stage another power grab—reportedly to be triggered by the arraignment on Wednesday of deposed President Joseph Estrada on plunder charges—should be taken seriously.

The threat, however, should not be exaggerated.

It is inaccurate to say that the President is an alarmist crying wolf.

Her warning is based on intelligence reports calling attention to extraordinary movements and meetings of groups behind the May 1 attack on Malacañang. Money is reportedly flowing again.

GOV'T/A20

Alert raised over Erap arraignment

AMID warnings of a planned power grab, military and police were on alert yesterday in preparation for the coming trial of ex-President Joseph Estrada's landmark plunder case, seen as a test for the nation's legal system.

Barring yet another postponement, Estrada will appear on the dock Wednesday with his co-accused, son Jinggoy and former lawyer Edward Serapio, to be arraigned on charges of plunder.

Officials said several thousand soldiers and police are to secure the Sandiganbayan in Quezon City and the 7-kilometer stretch of highway Estrada and his guards will take from the Veterans Memorial Medical Center where he and Jinggoy have been detained for over a month.

Amid the preparations, Estrada's defense team appears to have withdrawn its initial opposition to a proposal from the Philippine National Police to have the ex-President's trial held at the Veterans Memorial Medical Center rather than in court.

"We still have to weigh the pros and cons. Its legality, its practicality," counsel Rene Saguisag said yesterday.

On Friday, defense lawyer Jose Flaminiano opposed the petition in court, contending that no law authorizes the holding of a criminal trial outside

ALERT/A20

Urban Bank allowed to reopen in August

BY ELENA R. TORRIJOS

AFTER more than a year of uncertainty and anguish, thousands of depositors and creditors of Urban Bank Inc. and its investment house, Urbancorp Investments Inc., can now look forward to getting their money back soon.

The state-owned Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp. (PDIC), the receiver of Urban Bank, has given the green light for the reopening of the bank in August.

The PDIC based its decision on the rehabilitation plan proposed by Export and Industry Bank (EIB) and the National Association of Urban Bank and Urbancorp Depositors and Creditors (NAUDC).

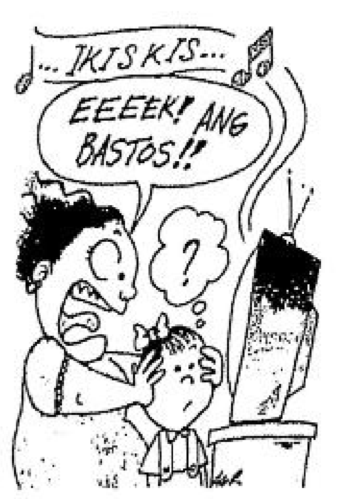
EIB president Benjamin Castillo said it would be reasonable to say that EIB would start servicing the first tranche of payments amounting to P500,000 for each depositor or creditor of the Urban group in August.

Castillo said EIB, a small commercial bank largely owned by Philexport, would then pay the balance owed to some 5,000 depositors and creditors over a period of three to six years.

On April 26 last year, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) closed Urban Bank a day after the bank declared a holiday.

Urban Bank suffered from liquidity prob-

URBAN/A6


...IKISKIS...
EEEEK! ANG BASTOS!!
?

Toilet humor in commercial irks officials

BY ALLAN A. NAWAL
PDI Mindanao Bureau

DIGOS CITY—"*Sa bukid walang papel, ikiskis lang sa pilapil . . .*"

This catchy jingle for a commercial for Joy tissue paper has become familiar among television viewers,

TOILET/A20

Beheadings trigger rise of vigilantes

BY JULIE ALIPALA-INOT
PDI Mindanao Bureau

LAMITAN, Basilan—Local officials expressed apprehension over the resurgence of vigilante groups in the province as a result of the Abu Sayyaf's beheading of several of its hostages.

"Our people here are becoming tense and afraid of the beheadings. It's no longer normal. My militia here has strengthened its forces against these bandits," Mayor Inocente Ramos said.

He disclosed that some groups had started arming themselves and that four companies of the Citizens' Armed Forces Geographical Units (Cafgus) had been reorganized.

Ramos admitted that former members of the dreaded vigilante group Mundo Oscuro (Dark World) had already been integrated into Cafgus.

Another armed group, the Christian Brotherhood, has reportedly been revived in Basilan to assist the militias.

Ramos said most of the Christian Brotherhood members had been inactive after the end of Mahadji crisis in September last year.

BEHEADINGS/A6

A RUBBER plantation worker joins the search in Barangay Cabunbata in Isabela City in Basilan for the heads of Primitivo Falcasantos and Crisanto Suela who were seized, along with 13 others, by an Abu Sayyaf faction from the Golden Harvest Plantation in Lantawan town. DENNIS SABANGAN

ANO 'TO? MGA RAMBOYS NA ANG NAG-RARAMBOL!

RAM asks gov't to fire LTO chief

BY CARLITO PABLO

THE REBOLUSYONARYONG Alyansang Makabansa has asked the Macapagal administration to dismiss as chief of the Land Transportation Office retired Brig. Gen. Edgardo Abenina, a RAM stalwart who negotiated the rightist rebel group's peace accord with the Ramos administration.

In a "confidential" letter to Transportation Secretary Pantaleon Alvarez, RAM executive committee chair retired Commodore Domingo Calajate cited complaints against Abenina's alleged militarization of the LTO.

A second reason was Abenina's alleged threat to withdraw RAM and its allied organizations, Soldiers of the Filipino People and the Young Officers Union, from the peace accord it signed in October 1995, if he is fired from the LTO.

Newspapers reported recently that Abenina had been given his walking papers and that he would soon be replaced by another RAM member.

In his letter, Calajate said the alleged militarization of the LTO had "unnecessarily caused embarrassment to the Arroyo administration, created animosity among LTO personnel and placed doubts on Abenina's ability and capacity to manage the LTO."

Calajate recommended the immediate termination of the "large contingent" of Philippine National Police personnel that Abenina had allegedly detailed to the agency.

He said that with the opposition by civic groups against the militarization of the civilian bureaucracy, such assignment "cannot be justified and cannot be tolerated."

The RAM chair also said that demoralized LTO employees, whose career advancement had been frustrated, are planning protest actions over the issue.

When sought for comment, Abenina denied by phone that he was on the way out as LTO chief.

He also denied all the charges against him, particularly the one about his alleged threat to cause the withdrawal of former military rebels from the peace agreement.

But Calajate quoted Abenina as having said: "President Macapagal-Arroyo cannot dictate to me. If she fires me, I will withdraw the RAM-SFP-YOU from the negotiating table with the Government of the Republic of the Philippines."

To demonstrate RAM's displeasure over Abenina's actions, Calajate informed Alvarez that Abenina has been "relieved. . . of all positions in RAM so that similar incidents will not happen again.

"We wish to assure the secretary and the President that RAM will not withdraw from the peace process even if all RAM members holding government positions are fired by the President," said Calajate who was earlier appointed director of the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp.

Calajate also asked Alvarez to "relay to President Macapagal our assurances of unqualified support to her administration."

Abenina explained that he deputized members of the PNP-Traffic Management Group to man the newly created LTO Traffic Operations Center on a 24-hour basis.

When asked how many PNP personnel he had detailed at the LTO, Abenina said: "About six or seven."

Abenina also said rumors against him have been spreading because of the reforms he has undertaken at the LTO.

"A lot of people have lost money because of my reforms," Abenina said. "Insurance companies, for example, have been long defrauding the government of taxes."

ABENINA

CALAJATE

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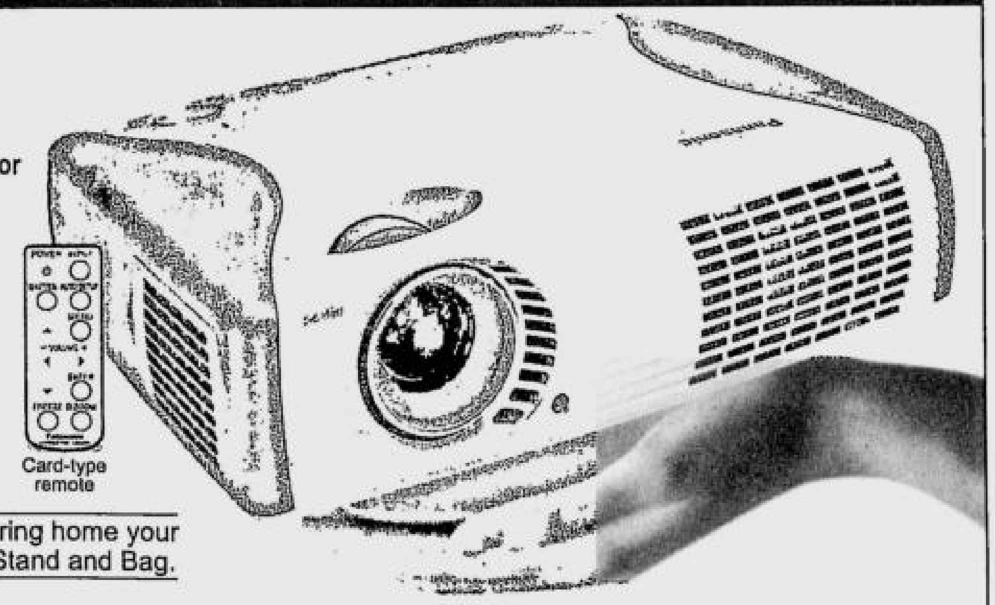
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Koronadal bus terminal bombed

KORONADAL CITY—Two buses belonging to a leading transportation company here were heavily damaged when two bombs believed planted by communist rebels exploded at a terminal early yesterday. No one was reported hurt.

Police said three bombs made of commercial dynamite were planted by suspected New People's Army members at the Yellow Bus Lines (YBL) terminal, but only two went off at around 2:15 a.m.

Members of the local police explosive and ordnance disposal team were able to recover the bomb that failed to explode.

Supt. Bonfillo Dacoco, South Cotabato police chief, told reporters that the bombing, the first in the city this year, might have been the handiwork of the NPA, the military arm of the Communist Party of the Philippines, which was trying to collect "revolutionary taxes" from YBL owner Richie Yap.

Police recovered an extortion letter at the scene of the explosion with the initials BHB (Bagong Hukbong Bayan), bolstering the rebel theory.

Yap has reportedly refused to give in to numerous NPA demands for money. As a result, several YBL buses have been burned by the communist rebels over the years. The latest incident occurred last year when two YBL buses were set on fire on the national highway in Tupi, South Cotabato. *Aquiles Z. Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

4 killed in Bontoc bus crash

BONTOC, Mt. Province—Four persons were killed and 13 others were injured when a wayward bus plunged into a 50-ft ravine here on Saturday.

The bus was bound for Bontoc from Tabuk, Kalinga, when the accident happened.

Police said the bus was approaching a bridge in Barangay Callutit when its steering wheel malfunctioned.

The driver lost control of the steering wheel, causing the bus to swerve and fall off the ravine.

Police are now hunting the bus driver and bus conductor, who left the hospital after they were treated, to shed light on the accident. *Daphne Marie Falag-ey, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

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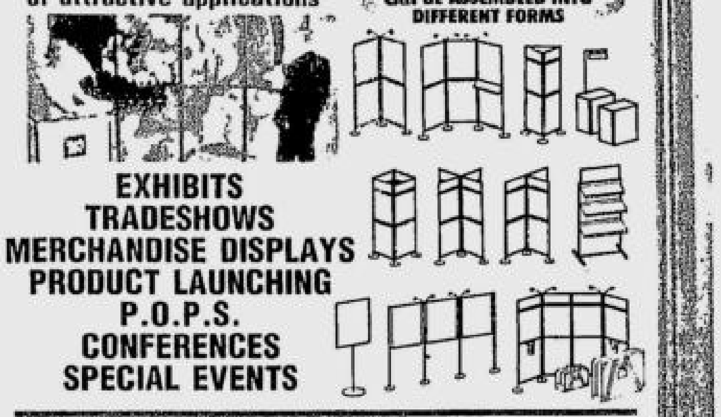

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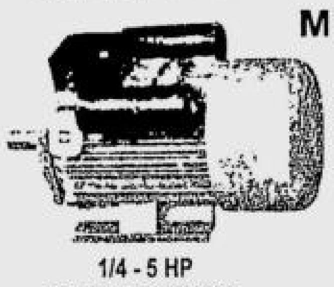

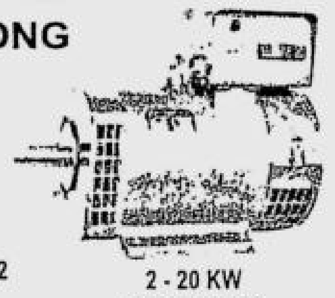

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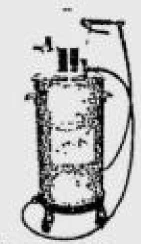
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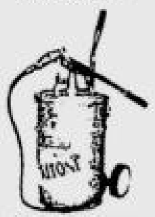
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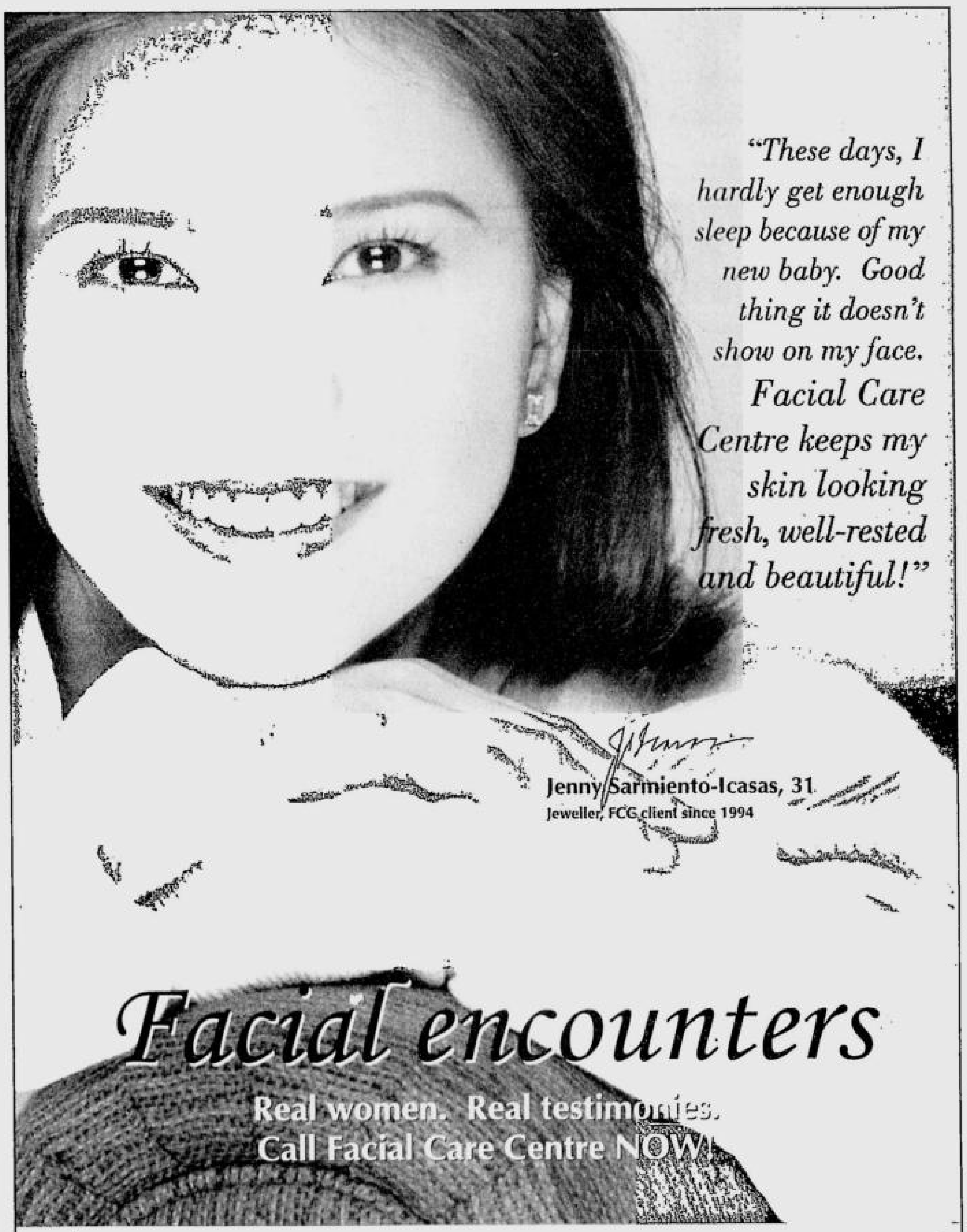
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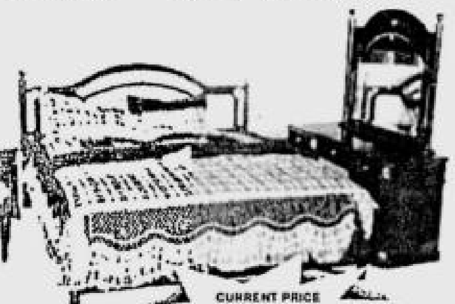

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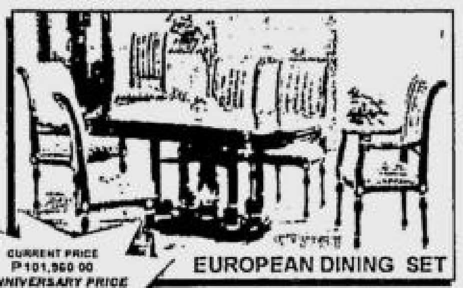

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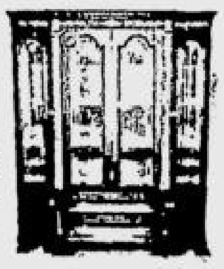

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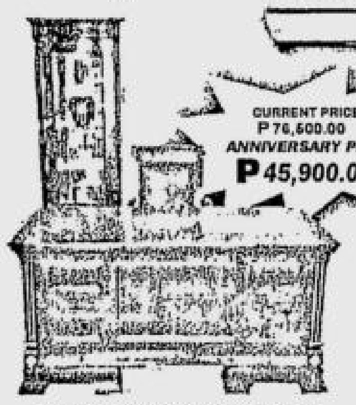

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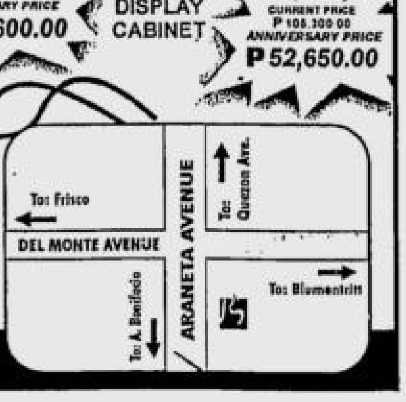

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2 Pinoy rapists in Sabah ordered jailed, whipped

KUALA LUMPUR—Malaysian courts have sentenced two Filipinos to a total of 27 years in jail and 10 strokes of the cane for robbery, theft and gang rape, reports said Sunday.

Separate courts in Kota Kinabalu, in the eastern state of Sabah, handed down the sentences on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, the Star and Sun newspapers reported.

They were each jailed for two years for theft, for five years for robbing the rape victim and for 20 years plus caning for the rape, with the sentences to run concurrently.

The Star identified the pair as Nurvin Lakimi,33, and Oscar Buring, 23. The Sun said they broke into a house where a student was sleeping and committed the crimes.

Hundreds of thousands of Filipinos, many of them illegal immigrants, live in Sabah. *AFP*

Filipinos No. 1 'texters' in S'pore, says phone firm

SINGAPORE—Filipinos lead foreign workers who are fueling a huge growth in the number of mobile phone text messages sent abroad from Singapore, a Singapore Telecommunications spokesman said on Sunday.

The number of messages sent out by SingTel customers has surged to about 1.3 million a month currently—a tenfold increase over last April when the service debuted—SingTel spokesman Chia Boon Chong said.

Chia said most of the short messaging service or SMS traffic apparently comes from foreign workers in Singapore, who use SMS as a cheap way to keep in touch with families and friends in their home countries.

The assumption is based on "the profile of the foreign workers" in Singapore, he said.

The Philippines was SingTel's top destination for SMS messages, with an average of about 300,000 a month, Chia said.

Tens of thousands of Filipinos live in Singapore, many of them working as maids.

Malaysia and Indonesia alternate between SingTel's second and third SMS destinations with an average of about 250,000 messages a month each, Chia said.

Singapore, a wealthy and highly developed city-state of 4 million people, depends heavily on low-cost foreign labor from other countries in Asia. About 450,000 foreigners with basic work passes live in the country.

India is the fourth largest destination for SingTel customers' SMS messages, Chia said.

The United Kingdom and Australia rank fifth and sixth, he said, adding that much of the traffic to those countries likely comes from Singaporean parents messaging children who study there. *AP*

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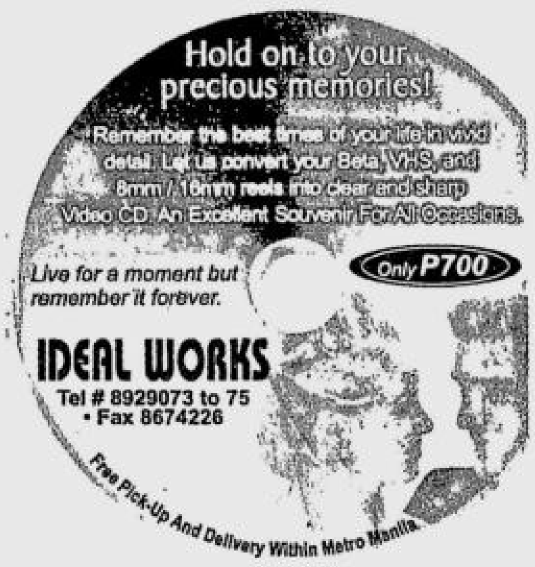
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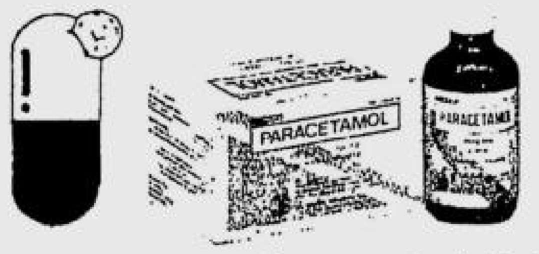

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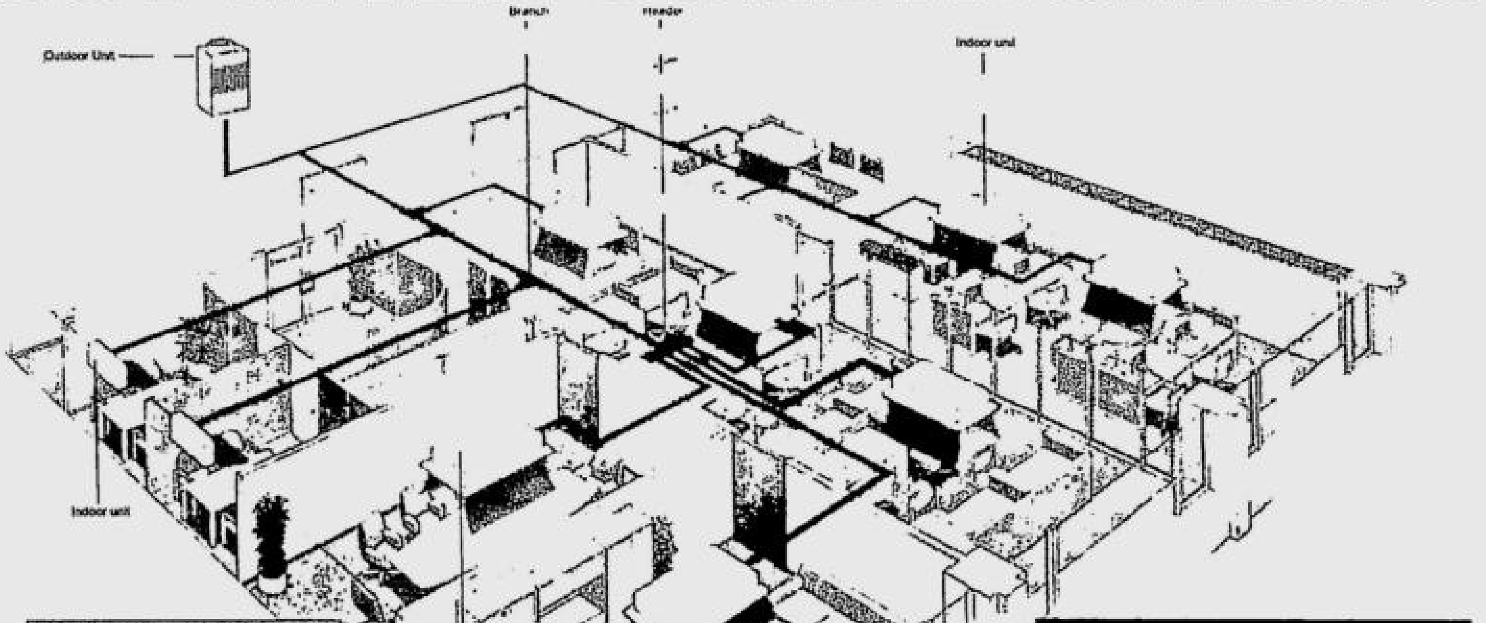

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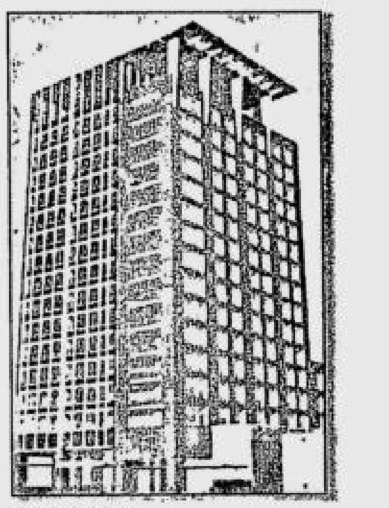
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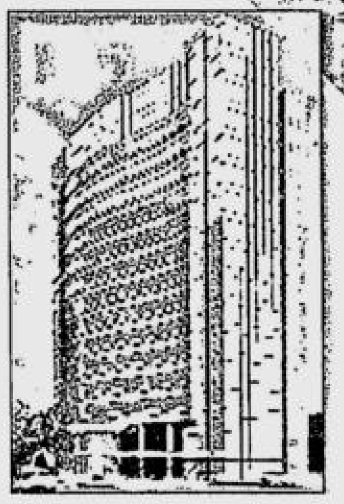
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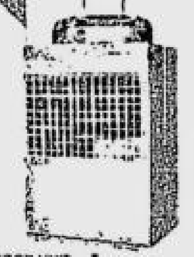
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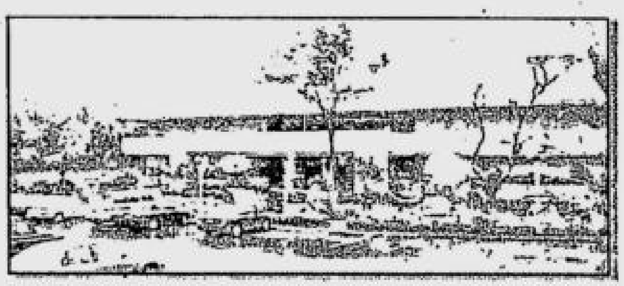
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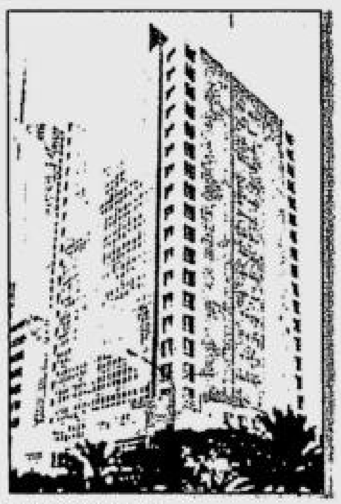
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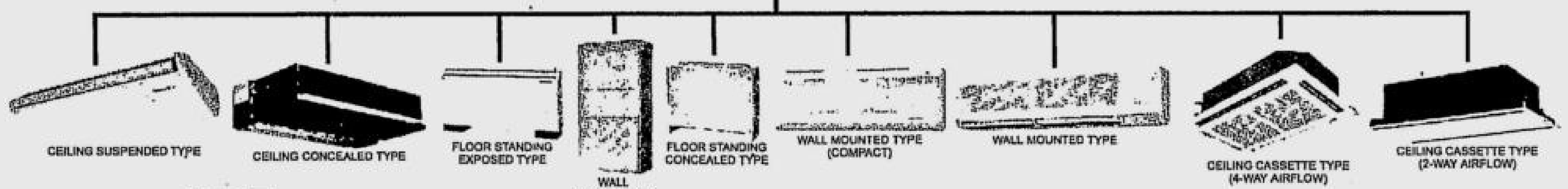
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RP vows to push bill vs 'dirty money'

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo will ask the Philippine Congress to pass a bill designed to crack down on money laundering, a spokesman said yesterday as a deadline for threatened sanctions loomed.

"One of the priority bills of the President, which would be revived when Congress convenes is amendments to the banking law," Ms Macapagal spokesman Rigoberto Tiglao told reporters.

He said the proposed law "would close the loopholes on money laundering."

Under the proposed laws, the central bank could look into deposits of more than P50 million in suspicious individual bank accounts.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas also announced earlier this year that it and the Bankers Association of the Philippines would work on guidelines for allowing banks and regulators to examine foreign currency deposit accounts.

The Philippines is on a 17-strong list of non-cooperative countries or territories (NCCT) compiled by the multinational Financial Action Task Force (FATF).

The task force is headquartered in the Paris offices of industrialized-nation grouping the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

The latest FATF report, released at the weekend, said the task force was recommending additional countermeasures against Nauru, the Philippines and Russia.

These measures include "the possibility of enhanced surveillance and reporting of financial transactions and other relevant actions" as of Sept. 30.

This would happen "unless their governments enact significant legislation which addresses identified money laundering concerns."

The newly elected Congress convenes on July 23.

FATF countries should act by imposing "stringent requirements" that would identify individuals and companies using facilities in Nauru, the Philippines and Russia, the report said.

It calls for enhanced reporting mechanisms and warns businesses that transactions with NCCT operations "might run the risk of money laundering."

The current NCCT nations are the Cook Islands, Dominica, Egypt, Guatemala, Hungary, Indonesia, Israel, Lebanon, Marshall Islands, Burma (Myanmar), Nauru, Nigeria, Niue, the Philippines, Russia, St. Kitts and Nevis, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines. *AFP*

Guingona backs dual citizenship

VICE President and Foreign Secretary Teofisto Guingona Jr. has urged Congress to study the laws on dual citizenship, with a view to allowing Filipinos to swear allegiance to two nations at the same time.

Addressing the Philippine Constitution Association (Philconsa) on June 11 at the Manila Hotel, Guingona said that in his visits to Filipino communities abroad, he is asked for two things: absentee voting and dual citizenship for Filipino expatriates.

"When we computerize, I am confident that many bills will again be filed (in Congress) to grant our countrymen abroad the right to vote. The quest for dual citizenship will pose a bigger challenge," he said.

Guingona said that according to the Constitution, dual allegiance is inimical to the national interest and shall be dealt with under the law (Section 5, Article 6).

Yet, he pointed out, the Constitution also has provisions that have been made the basis for dual citizenship by Filipinos living abroad.

He cited the example of a Filipina who marries a French national and automatically acquires her husband's citizenship, "yet she continues to retain Filipino citizenship unless by her act or omission she is deemed under the law to have renounced it."

"She becomes an alien not by choice but by marriage. She retains Filipino citizenship because she did not renounce it but it is hers by blood from birth," Guingona said in his speech.

Also, he said, Section 8 of Article 12 of the Constitution permits natural-born citizens who have lost their Philippine citizenship to own lands pursuant to limitations provided by law.

"Where then is dual allegiance inimical? Since the Constitution itself allows dual allegiance, should not Congress define the parameters of an allegiance that becomes inimical? Or should Congress itself expressly allow dual citizenship and dual allegiance in certain specified cases?" he asked.

Party-list group files petition

A LEADING party-list group has urged the Commission on Elections to proclaim the party-list winners in the last elections that are not respondents in disqualification suits, like the Mamamayan Ayaw sa Droga (MAD), Lakas-NUCD, Nationalist People's Coalition and Lahan ng Demokratikong Pilipino.

The Association of Philippine Election Cooperatives (Apec), which had 5.4 percent of the 13 million party-list votes canvassed as of June 9, filed a petition for partial proclamation, even as Comelec chair Alfredo Benipayo said the poll body was tied down by a restraining order from the Supreme Court.

The high tribunal, in a memorandum issued to the Comelec last month, stopped the poll body from proclaiming any party-list winners while two petitions filed by Bayan Muna and Bagong Bayani contesting the accreditation of 17 party-list groups, including MAD and the major political parties, were still up for decision.

Arlene Anigan, Apec counsel, said the group was not one of the 17 respondents in the petitions filed by Bayan Muna and Bagong Bayani and, therefore, should not be covered by the SC memo. *Gerald G. Lacuarta*

Macapagal to honor top 10 students

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo will be the guest of honor and speaker as the nation salutes the Ten Outstanding Students of the Philippines (TOSP) in Malacañang on June 28.

An annual search program launched in 1962, the TOSP counts among its past awardees some of the country's most distinguished personalities. The awards are handed out yearly in Malacañang by the president of the republic.

With President Macapagal-Arroyo, the traditional presidential award-giving has come full circle for the TOSP. The first batch of winners received their trophies from her father, President Diosdado Macapagal, and this was continued under the administrations of Ferdinand Marcos, Corazon Aquino, Fidel Ramos and Joseph Estrada.

The winners of this year's search will be announced during the awards rites, which will be attended by the 30 finalists from all over the country. The finalists were selected from an original 326 nominees who are all academic achievers and campus role models and who graduated last March 2001.

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Beheadings trigger rise of vigilantes

(From page A1)

The brotherhood has an estimated 3,000 members on Basilan Island, according to Fr. Cirilo Nacorda, Lamitan parish priest.

Nacorda said most of the members were professionals and community leaders, but "only a handful of members have their own firearms."

Ramos said calls for the arming of civilians were attributed to the growing number of people beheaded by Abu Sayyaf bandits.

The Abu Sayyaf has beheaded a total of seven people since it seized 20 hostages on May 27 from the Dos Palmas Resort off Puerto Princesa.

The first victim was Armando Bayona, a security guard of Dos Palmas, who was beheaded on June 1. On June 4, two soldiers, including one Sergeant Sulatan, were beheaded in Upper Sinangkapan, Tuburan.

Last week, two civilians in Tipo-Tipo town were beheaded, according to former Basilan Rep. Candu Muarip. On Saturday, Primitivo Falcasantos and Crisanto Suela of Lantawan were found headless in Barangay Cabunbata, in Isabela City.

Falcasantos was the chief of security and Suela a worker of the Golden Harvest Plantation. They were among the 15 workers taken by the Abu Sayyaf from the plantation in Barangay Tairan in Lantawan.

The bandits still hold at least 23 other hostages, including US Christian missionary couple Martin and Gracia Burnham, both Kansas natives.

Californian Guillermo Sobero is presumed dead after the rebels claimed to have beheaded him, although his body has not been found.

'Very sad'

Presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said President Macapagal-Arroyo "is very sad" because "the carnage of the Abu Sayyaf continues."

"We condemn it in the strongest possible terms and we condole with the families . . . It gives us more resolve to end this crisis immediately and to capture and annihilate the Abu Sayyaf," Tiglao said.

He said the Abu Sayyaf was "murdering people whom they think they cannot make money out of."

Sobero is not yet included in the list of people beheaded by the bandits as local and military officials are still checking the claim of Abu Sayyaf spokesperson Abu Ahmad Salayuddin alias Abu Sabaya that they had beheaded the American on June 12 as an "Independence Day gift" to the President.

"Until we can see the body or the head, for now we still consider him alive," said Maj. Alberto Gepilano, Joint Task Force Comet's civil-military operations officer.

Gepinalo said they were under instructions to scour the area of Tuburan "in order to locate the body and to put an end to the sufferings of the Soberos."

"But the soldiers were able to recover three severed heads in Tuburan. According to Tuburan residents one of those belonged to Abu Sayyaf," Insp. Abdurākman Hassin, Tuburan police chief, said.

Search for heads

While Basileños religiously observed the Feast of St. John here yesterday, members of the PNP-Special Action Forces and the Cafgus of Barangay Cabunbata searched for the heads of Falcasantos and Suela.

Police officials in Isabela believed that the two severed heads might have been buried in a shallow grave somewhere between Barangays San Rafael and Cabunbata.

"The fact that the two bodies are still fresh only means that the heads might have been placed or kept near the location where we recovered the cadavers," said Supt. Ahmadul Pangambayan, Basilan police director. *With a report from Martin P. Marfil*

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JUNE 27-28	9-5:30	BAKESHOP OPERATION, SYSTEMS & PROCEDURES (with field trip)	1,540.00
JUNE 27-29	9-5:30	FRESH-FLOWER ARRANGEMENT AND FLOWER SHOP OPERATION AND MANAGEMENT (with field trip)	2,310.00
JUNE 28-29	9-5:30	AROMATHERAPY	1,540.00
JUNE 29	9-5:30	TRANSPARENT SOAP (in cooperation with ITDI/DOST)	770.00
JUNE 30-JULY 1	9-5:30	AROMA CANDLE MAKING (in cooperation with ITDI/DOST)	1,540.00
JUNE 30-JULY 1	9-5:30	CATERING BUSINESS OPERATION	1,155.00
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JULY 4	9-5:30	SETTING UP A TRAVEL AGENCY	770.00
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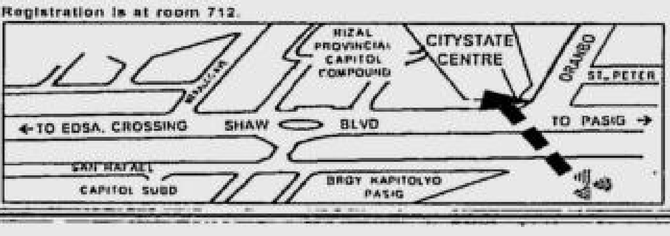

This ad is published every other Monday in the Daily Inquirer.

Urban Bank . . .

(From page A1)

lems after it spent P4.6 billion to bail out Urbancorp, which was hit by massive pretermination of investments early last year. Urban bank owns 40 percent of the investment house.

One depositor who was able to withdraw his money was then President Joseph Estrada. He withdrew a total of P143 million from Urban Bank a day after the BSP shut it down.

Representatives Joker Arroyo and Oscar Moreno later accused Bangko Sentral Gov. Rafael Buenaventura of tipping off Estrada about the bank's impending closure.

The BSP provident fund was also able to preterminate a P15-million deposit before Urban Bank declared a holiday.

PDIC president Norberto Nazareno told the INQUIRER yesterday that PDIC's management committee tasked with examining the EIB/NAUDC proposal had determined last week that Urban Bank may resume business with enough safety guarantees to depositors and creditors.

The management committee will endorse the approval of the proposed rehabilitation plan to the PDIC board on Wednesday and to the Monetary Board, the BSP's policy-making body, on Thursday.

Simple formalities

Nazareno said that the approvals were simple formalities and that by the following week, PDIC and EIB/NAUDC should sign a memorandum of agreement (MOA) for the implementation of the rehabilitation plan.

The Securities and Exchange Commission, the receiver of Urbancorp, is expected to take its cue from the BSP and PDIC and approve the plan.

After the signing of the MOA between PDIC and EIB, a special meeting of Urban Bank and Urbancorp shareholders would be held to ratify the bank's reorganization and a revised shareholders' agreement.

The revised shareholders' agreement provides for the write-down of the par value of Urban Bank shares from P100 to less than P10 per share and the collection of certain loans, including those tied to pieces of real estate, according to Castillo.

Under the rehab plan, EIB will merge with Urban Bank and Urbancorp following the conversion of at least 10 percent of the deposits and placements with the Urban group into equity. It will involve at least P1.25 billion.

EIB will also make an initial capital infusion of P300 million into Urban Bank and raise the shuttered bank's equity base to P3.7 billion.

Merger

Urban Bank, a publicly listed company, will be the surviving entity but the name of the bank will subsequently be changed to Export and Industry Bank. The merged bank is projected to have a capital base of P6 billion.

As part of its commitment to help the bank, PDIC will extend P430 million in concessional financial assistance to EIB and will provide a P1.5-billion standby facility at market rates to EIB for any unanticipated withdrawals.

Some 5,000 depositors and creditors have a total of P12 billion trapped in Urban Bank and Urbancorp.

The amount is on top of the more than P3 billion in combined funds of the financial institutions' three largest depositors and investors—San Miguel Corp., Petron Corp. and Manila Electric Co.

The three companies have agreed to restructure their combined deposits and placements into long-term loans.

Seventy-five percent of the amount to be restructured will be spread over three years while the remaining 25 percent will be stretched over six years.

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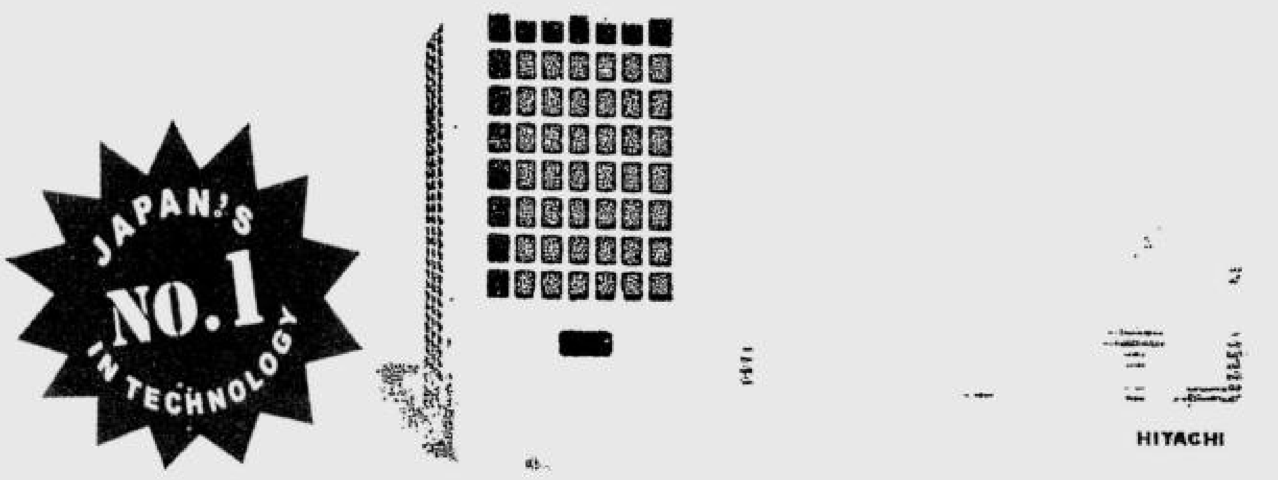

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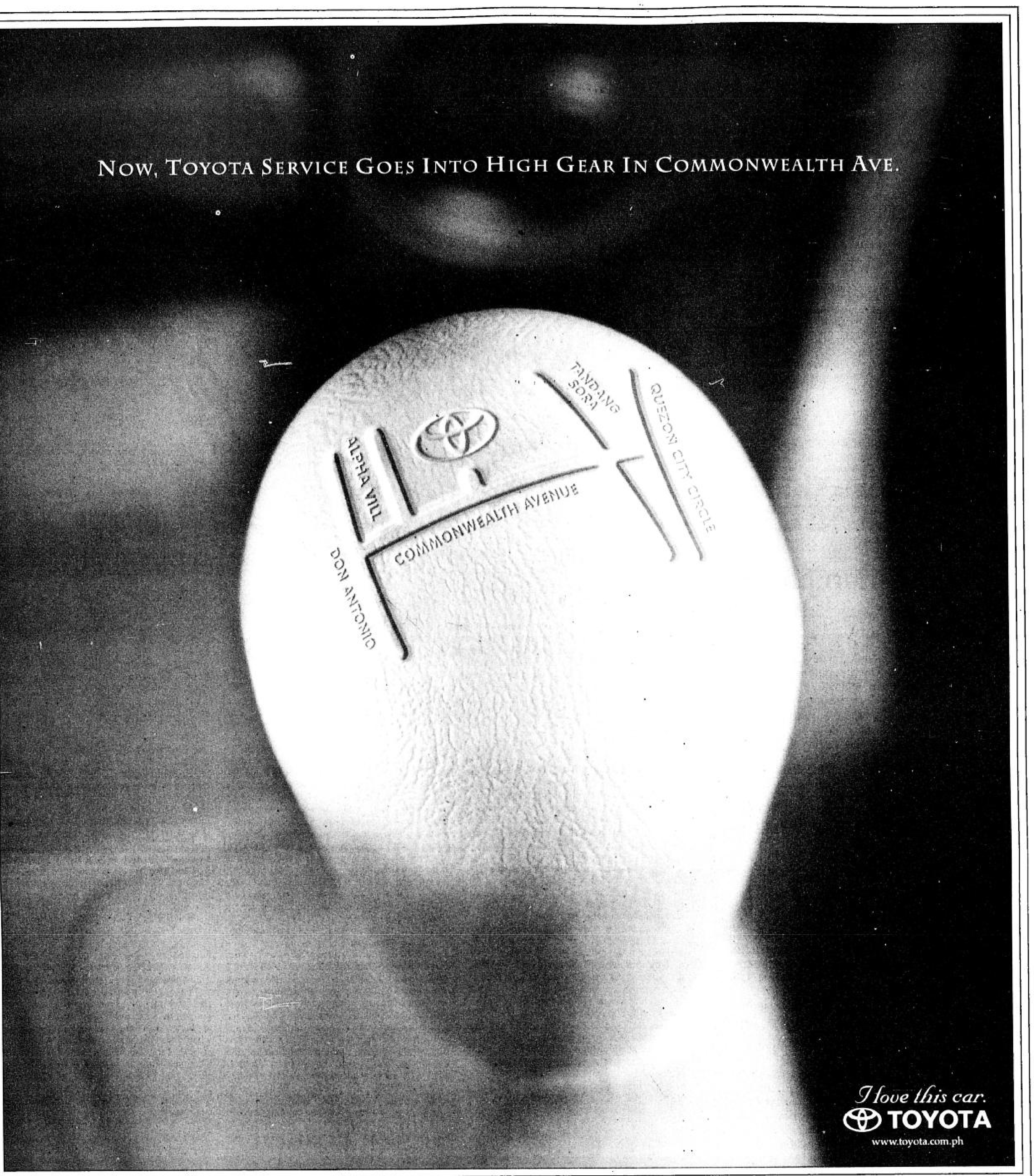
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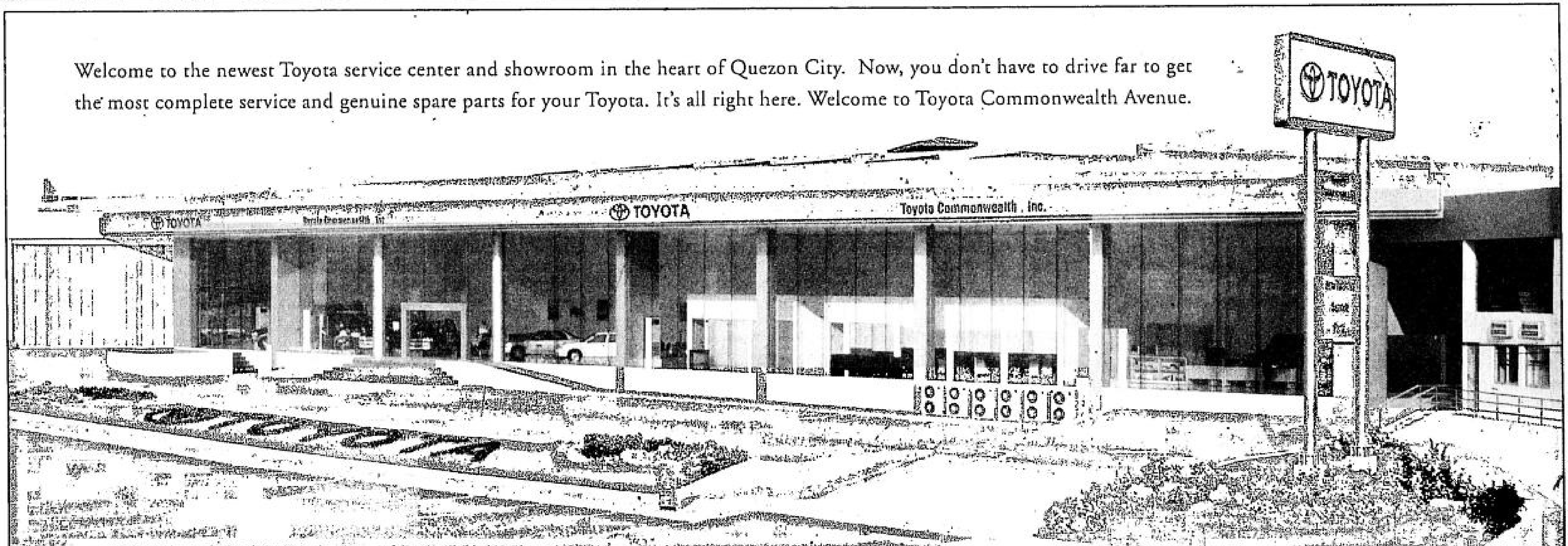
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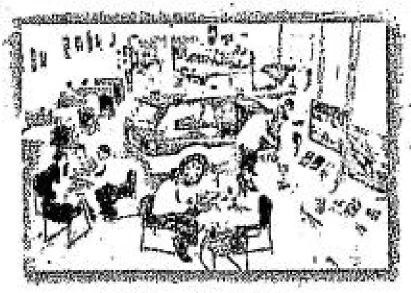

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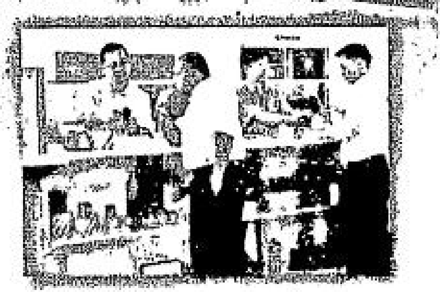

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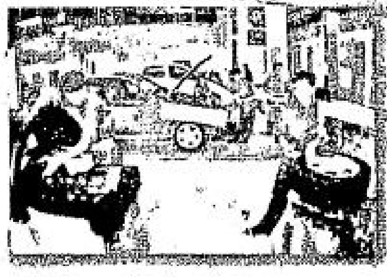

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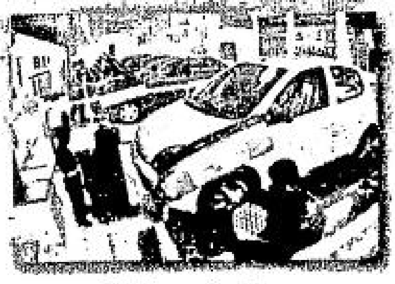

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OPINION

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Destabilization blues

EDITORIAL

THE MACAPAGAL administration is taking an enormous risk in alleging a new destabilization plot against it, one that will reportedly take undue advantage of this week's scheduled arraignment of deposed President Joseph Estrada. The strategic objective for the announcement seems to be to preempt the plotters; tactically, however, the administration seems to have already inflicted some damage—on itself.

Last Saturday's mock "rescue" of the President by members of the Presidential Security Group, during the PSG's anniversary rites in Malacañang Park, may have been planned innocently enough. The successful staging was certainly an entertaining, if suspenseful, diversion. But in view of the dramatic announcements by the President herself, on Tuesday after the Mary Grace Rosagas kidnapping, and on Friday at the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law anniversary, that a destabilization plot was brewing against her administration, the mock assassination drama has gained a darker meaning.

Governance, often enough, is a matter of timing.

By staging a series of announcements or events that followed the destabilization script very closely, the administration has added to the current political uncertainty. We do not say "unwittingly," because this administration is becoming more adept at what political spinmeisters call message discipline. Last week's destabilization talking points must have been planned well in advance.

We also do not say "without regard for consequences," because the Macapagal administration, heavily influenced as it is by economists from the President herself and on down the line, must have weighed the costs of preempting the plotters against its benefits.

We worry, however, that the administration does not value political stability itself as much as the public does.

The administration is apparently willing to take a hit as far as domestic and international perception about the country's political stability goes as long as the alleged plotters are isolated and eventually eliminated.

The announcements from the Palace, as well as that staged "rescue" of the President, will conspire with the expected turbulence on the streets outside the Sandiganbayan and inside the courtroom today, when Estrada is arraigned, to create turmoil in the markets, in the coffee shops, on the street corner, eventually even in the halls of Congress.

True, the destabilization script may put the fear of the law in the hearts of some of the plotters, if they do indeed exist. This may effectively stop the plot, but at what cost? If the intelligence community does have the information as the President suggests, wouldn't taking the plotters by surprise, just as they are about to strike, and then making the announcement before the media be the more prudent approach?

We have assumed, thus far, that the intelligence reports that reach the President are accurate. What if they are not?

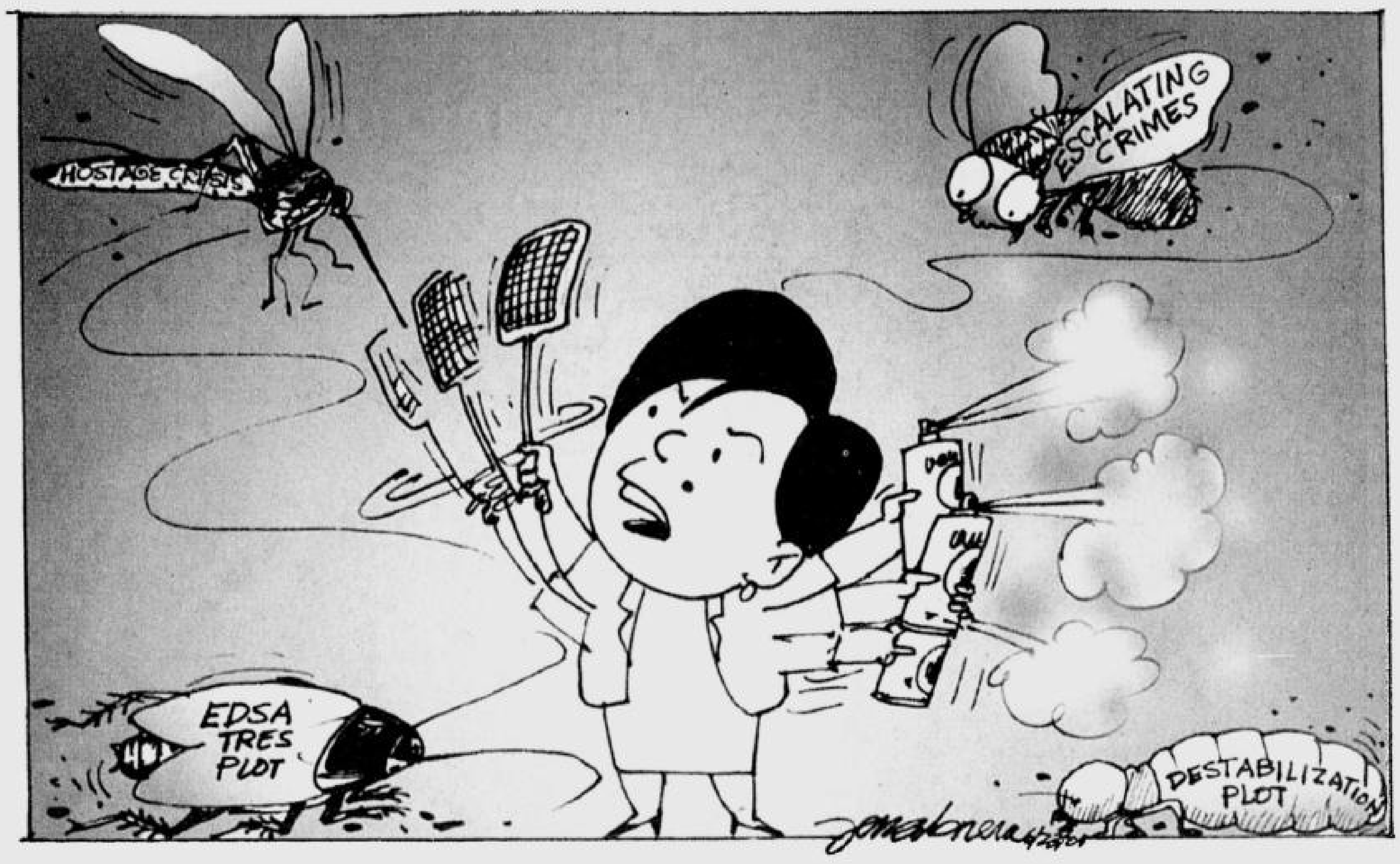
If we judge these intel reports by last week's events, when President Macapagal suggested on Tuesday that the Rosagas kidnapping was part of a plot to embarrass or even destabilize her administration, only to take it back and apologize to the victim and her family on Wednesday, then the administration is taking a very big risk indeed.

At a press briefing last Friday, Presidential Spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao rated the information about the alleged plot as "quite reliable." That qualifier right there, "quite'" is a dead giveaway. If the information is reliable, we can be sure that he would have said so. "Quite reliable" does not justify the alarming destabilization noises coming from the Palace.

At the same briefing, Armed Forces spokesperson Brig. Gen. Edilberto Adan was less alarmist. "We have no details, but based on what transpired in the past, you can expect some rallies, some noises."

Unless the military has information that says otherwise, that noise that Adan will hear beginning today is only the cacophony of democracy. It ain't pleasing to the ear, of course. It's messy and grating and may even muffle the sounds of a coup plot in the making. But it isn't inherently destabilizing.

What unsettles the public, what destabilizes the political situation, is when Malacañang, acting on intelligence reports that the public has reason to believe are flawed, sounds the alarm as an all-too-transparent psywar tactic.



GMA, PNP chief are RP's top comedians

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

YOU must be fed up with all the bad news you've been reading and hearing, so we'll try to cheer you up by telling jokes. God knows we have to retain our sense of humor when prices are going up—fuel, rice, vegetables, water rates, transportation fees—the peso's value going down, the budget deficit getting bigger, the tax collections getting smaller, kidnappings and bank robberies getting more frequent, more people losing their heads, literally, etc. So stressful. The antidote is to listen to funny stories. Here are a few:

In the Senate, senators are scrambling to get for themselves the offices to be vacated by outgoing senators. Is it true that a certain male senator wants the office of either Sen. Nikki Coseteng or Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago because they have ladies' rooms?

Senators Loren Legarda and Ralph Recto are going to be business partners. They will put up a classy store near historic Mendiola, at the corner of Recto and Legarda Streets. The store's name: Ralph-Loren.

But here is the funniest joke of all:

"The crime rate has gone down 10 percent"—Leandro Mendoza, PNP chief. Mendoza has surpassed Dolphy as the nation's funniest comedian. People couldn't stop laughing when he made the statement quoted above.

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo is a close second in telling funny jokes. Listen to this: "No negotiations; no ransom."

This time, those who laughed the loudest were the Abu Sayyaf bandits. They ran laughing all the way to the bank.

And how about this one, also by Ms Macapagal: "We're in control."

In control of what? Not of the Abu Sayyaf or the lucrative kidnapping industry, not of the peace and order situation, not of the oil cartel, not of graft and corruption, neither of rising prices nor of the runaway population growth. And not of Erap and his supporters. So what is Malacañang in control of?

One strange and ironic fact is that President Macapagal and former President Estrada seem to have something in common: they both like to utter one-liners that sound like they came from movie scripts. Ms Macapagal's *"Uulanan kayo ng bala"* and *"Pupulbusin ko kayo"* sound so much like Erap's *"Huwag n'yo akong subukan."* All three quotes will make good titles for action movies. (In fact, a biographical movie of Erap should be titled, "Sinubukan Ka Ngunit Kulang.") Maybe it is because although Ms Macapagal was never in show biz, her father, former President Diosdado Macapagal, was an actor during his younger days, and her son Mikey is a part-time actor although, in the words of a very popular movie star, still *pipitsugin* (translation: so-so).

Anyway, such quotes may sound good in the movies but they are unpresidential, especially since the Abu Sayyaf is far from being ground into powder.

Still on the Abu Sayyaf, the heavily outnumbered and outgunned ragtag bandits are led by unlettered or little-schooled leaders while their army opponents are led by many generals, the highest ranking of whom is a lieutenant general, commanding not only regular army troops but also Special Forces, commandos and Marines and reinforced by thousands of policemen and Cafgus and using armored personnel carriers, aircraft, artillery, trucks and naval vessels. Yet the bandits, all on foot, are running circles around the military forces commanded by generals. The Abu Sayyaf has already adopted for itself the Philippine Constabulary's (?) slogan of "Always outnumbered, never outfought." Isn't that funny?

Back to Mendoza's rib-tickler, that the crime rate has gone down by 10 percent. It is said that the devil can cite the Scriptures to prove a point. And the government, especially the old Central Bank, has been caught in the past fudging statistics to make it appear that the Philippine economy was faring better than it was. The local oil cartel is always trotting out statistics to convince consumers why it has to raise fuel prices. Maynilad has also cited statistics to justify increasing its water rates.

My point is that statistics can lie. To say that the crime rate has gone down when kidnappings, bank robberies, holdups, rapes and other crimes are going on all around us is not only funny but incredible. It is an insult to our intelligence. I am not saying that the PNP chief was lying, but when there were 1,000 kidnappings and you say that it has been reduced by 10 percent, that means there were still 900 kidnappings, hardly a situation to be happy about. And when there are 1,000 kidnapped but only 50 are reported in the police blotter, statistics show that only 50 persons were kidnapped but that does not change the fact that 950 others were also kidnapped. It's like sweeping the dirt under the rug. You don't see it but the dirt is still there.

I think General Mendoza should understand that the people don't want to hear statements that the crime rate has gone down. They don't believe in statistics. What they want is to feel safe in their home and in the streets. When their children are late in coming home, they don't want to fear that they have been kidnapped. Or to worry that when they go to the bank, that may be the time when bank robbers will strike.

What good is an assurance from the police chief that the crime rate has gone down when you arrive home and find it ransacked and your appliances and valuables gone? What good is it when your daughter comes home in tears and cries that she had been raped? What good is it when you come from the movies and find your car missing? Or when you finally find out that your son has been a victim of drug pushers?

General, less statistics, less press releases; more work.

Proof positive

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

A COUPLE of letter-writers wondered if media were not themselves discouraging Filipinos overseas from coming home. One of them was more blunt. I myself, he told me, had been writing a lot about the bad things that were happening in the country. If I wrote about the good things instead, I might persuade a lot more Filipinos to relocate here.

Well, to begin with, I do not know why anybody should be showed the good things about home to want to go back to it. "Home," Robert Frost once said, "is the place where, when you want to go there, they have to take you in." A pretty depressing view of things, suggesting as it does a sense of obligation on the part of your kin to give you a roof over your head. I could paraphrase it and say that home is the place, where even if they don't want to take you in, you have to go there. The sense of obligation is on your part, one that doesn't come from the outside or from the recriminations of others but from the inside or the flailing of the heart.

I do not see why people should be regaled with the goodies of home, the way *balikbayans* are regaled with nostalgia-inducing images of fiestas and Christmas, which are often one and the same, to be induced to come home. I respect the decision of many Filipinos to leave the country. I am not particularly anxious to bring them back by giving them a postcard view of the country they left. I am not in the tourism business. Dick Gordon can very well do that for them.

I do not know that Singaporeans say they will go back to their country only when authoritarianism is lifted or Lee Kuan Yew goes, whichever comes first. Quite incidentally, I got a passionate letter from a Singaporean who is in Mindanao studying to become a priest correcting my impressions of his beloved Singapore. While he agrees with many of my observations about his country, he says, he feels compelled to defend its people. And even its system: It may be paranoid, he says, but it is not despotic.

But far more than this, I've always wondered about this view of things that says that if you criticize or show the seamy side of things, you are being negative. Or from the other end, that if you praise or show the good side of things, you are being positive. Or if you do the first, you are being destructive, while if you do the second, you are being constructive.

I don't buy it. This country does not lack for a whole industry that does nothing but praise and show the good side of things and people, which is the PR business, but I don't know that it contributes only positive things to life. This country in fact has a leading newspaper, whose name I will not bother to mention lest it get free advertisement from me, which does nothing but praise and show the good side of things and people, but I don't know that any Filipino abroad will find in it a good reason to come home.

Indeed, I don't know that they are not the ones who are contributing negatively to the country. To acquiesce to iniquity is not to be positive, it is to be negative. To protest tyranny, **that** is to be positive. Like I said the last time around, if we hadn't taken a "negative" attitude toward Marcos and Erap, we would not have produced the monumentally positive things called Edsa I and Edsa II. If we hadn't taken a "destructive" view of martial law and the gangster state Erap was creating, both would still be there to tyrannize us.

I agree that none of this means dwelling on the vile and sordid and not glimpsing the brighter side of the country as well. But people have different concepts of bright and dark. I myself have written a great deal about some truly dazzling aspects of this country, and I do not just mean the two Edsas. The most dazzling ones are to be found in small and dark corners.

I've seen, and written about, the heroism of the boy who died to keep several other boys from drowning after a floating pagoda capsized during a procession, and of that other boy who burned himself horribly (but thankfully lived) to rescue his younger siblings from a raging fire. I've seen, and written about, the struggle of artists to defend their freedom to depict the world in all its nakedness, which is not always metaphorical. I've seen, and written about, the girl in Payatas who has been picking through refuse at dead of night and crack of dawn, while going to school in between, to pluck her family from adversity, who could very well have been running for president instead of listening to would-be presidents tell her what they can do for her.

Which brings me to the most important point here. The complaint of my letter-writers above is not unlike the one a group of Filipinos made about "Probe" last year, which was that it put Filipinos in a bad light. This was so presumably because the TV program depicted, among other things, pedophilia, the mountain of garbage engulfing Metro Manila and rampant kidnapping of the Chinese.

But why should that necessarily put the Philippines in a bad light? Why should honesty of that epic stature make Filipinos look bad in the eyes of the world? Those things do happen. Those things we do ought to be very concerned about. Things are not going to be better because we ignore adversity. Things are going to be better **because** we look adversity in the eye, preferably without rose-colored glasses. There are limits to thinking positive, if by that is meant blissful ignorance about, or resolute blindness to, life's unpleasantness. You cannot fool yourself into thinking it is winter when you are burning with heat in a desert. Or maybe you can—and die from the cold.

But more than this, there is in fact good news to be gotten from the Philippine media's seeming obsession with pedophilia, the garbage problem and kidnapping. Which is that those media are free. For all the bad news that Philippine media bring, they also bring the incredibly good news that this country continues to have a free press. They also bring the incredibly good news that Philippine media are alive and kicking, which is more than can be said for the media of other countries, especially Southeast Asian ones. They also bring the incredibly good news that this country, for all its seeming capacity for indifference and apathy cares passionately about the freedoms it won at great cost. That is a ground for redemption. That is a ground for bullishness. That is a ground for coming home.

The Bible, which everyone considers to be the best source of good news, does not say postcards will set you free. It says the truth will.

Give cops means to fight crime

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

MANILA Mayor Lito Atienza should read the mild accident that happened at the Mehan Gardens a few days back as a sign from heaven that he should back off from his highly controversial plan for this Manila landmark. Hizzoner, fresh from a reelection, wants to put up a city college in the Mehan, but conservationists and heritage advocates like my neighbor here, Bambi Harper, are fighting it on the ground that it would destroy one of the few remaining open spaces in congested Manila and a historic landmark for generations. Civic leader Doris Magsaysay Ho insists that their group has found a more suitable site for a college, but the mayor won't listen.

* * *

Well, a few days ago, Atienza was leading a group in burning pornographic materials at the Mehan, when the flames, fueled by too much gasoline, suddenly grew so big it singed part of his hair and burned the lower portion of his pants. Timely action by his aides prevented a bigger disaster. But some media people were not so lucky, and a few of them suffered, according to reports, with second and third-degree burns.

What heaven seems to be telling Atienza is that while this project of the city college, like the burning of the smut materials, is good, the Mehan is not the right place for it. That space should be respected as a Manila landmark and fully developed as a people's park.

* * *

National Security Adviser Roy Golez and two government negotiators vis-à-vis the National Democratic Front, lawyer Rene Sarmiento and civic leader Chito Gascon, were guests at the new media forum Ugnayang Pambansa at the Rembrandt Hotel in Quezon City last Saturday. Ugnayan is planned as a regular forum featuring government officials hosted by Press Undersecretary Cerge Remonde. Last Saturday's session was very timely as it dealt with the peace and order situation and government's ongoing peace negotiations with the NDF and the MILF.

Golez stressed that there is some kind of "cycle" to criminal activities and that kidnapping incidents are down this year compared to the same time last year. Perhaps it's true. But I pointed out that all these statistics become meaningless when even just one sensational case blows up. Golez agreed. He pointed out, however, that the police authorities' batting average in solving kidnappings is 100 percent in cases that were reported "early enough" to the PNP. In fact, in many cases, he said, the kidnap victims were saved and ransom even recovered. But we all know why kidnap victims' families at times refuse to come to the police—they don't trust them. The police have to win the people's trust.

* * *

To my mind the best way to tackle criminality still is the preventive step and to give the PNP more teeth against criminality. The government has to push its modernization. This costs money. The purchase of more patrol cars is said to cost P6 billion, plus another P1 billion for fuel needs for a year. Where will the cash-strapped government get the money? As I said here before, perhaps a portion of the tourism budget for promoting the Philippines as a tourist destination should be rechannelled first to getting these basic needs of the PNP. For as long as the peace and order problem is not solved, few tourists will come to our beautiful islands.

* * *

Golez stressed something interesting—the inverse relationship between bank robbery and kidnapping. As he explained it, when the police apply the heat on kidnapping, especially after a big public outcry, the criminal syndicates shift to bank robbery, and vice versa. At the wedding reception for the daughter of our good friends, Ching and Serge Montinola, last Saturday evening, however, an executive in the transportation business told me about a third option for these syndicates: hijacking.

He stressed that hijacking activities are not as high-profile as the two other nefarious activities, but they go on as well, and the police authorities know this; sadly, at times the police are in cahoots with the hijackers. The goods prone to hijacking are those that are big in the retail market, said this businessman, and it's easy to spot them because they are stored in big rented containers in, say, Divisoria. The hijacking becomes a source of spending money for the syndicates during periods when they have to lie low from other nefarious activities.

* * *

The businessman deplored another thing which perhaps our lawmakers ought to consider: how easy and cheap it is for the criminal syndicates, backed up by good lawyers and in cahoots with corrupt judges, to obtain bail when arrested. For P20,000 they can be out on bail after every arrest, which becomes a big source of frustration for police authorities who are serious about curbing criminality.

What the businessmen want, he said, is to see that these nefarious activities be classified as economic sabotage, especially if they deal with export goods, and qualify as non-bailable "heinous" crimes. If a public official can be tried for plunder for stealing P50 million, these hijackers and bank robbers who repeatedly engage in these crimes ought to be punished without bail as well, he said.

* * *

At that reception I ran into new Bukidnon Gov. Joe Zubiri, who's now better known as Spice Boy Migs Zubiri's dad. Joe Z. says he's batting for his *tocayo*, Joe de Venecia for Speaker, and in fact he has asked Congress members from his region to all go for him. Zubiri said De Venecia has the experience needed to run the House in these crucial times and I agreed: now is not the time to experiment with untried leadership or go into a learning mode. The House leader has to hit the ground running.

Zubiri also stressed that he is not in favor of "power-sharing" as is being proposed by some quarters eager to contain all the rival ambitions in the House. There's a proposal to give De Venecia one and a half years, after which a rival takes over. Zubiri said that such arrangement would deprive the House of "continuity." "I spent 10 years in that chamber and I saw how important it is to have continuity of programs and stability," he stressed, adding that the new Speaker ought to stay until 2004.

* * *

Governor Zubiri expressed the hope, however, that De Venecia would now refrain from certain habits of the past, such as accommodating everyone and promising everything. I told Joe Z. that perhaps his *tocayo*, if he should be blessed with a first-ever, three terms, would now seek to carve his own niche in the House and play for history, especially since he has disavowed any higher ambitions after that disastrous 1998 presidential campaign.

From indications, in fact, it's a "new" De Venecia—chastened by defeat, humbler of speech and more realistic of goals. (Is this possible? Ask De Venecia's critics.) As a De Venecia staffer put it, now all House posts and committee chairs are being processed by consensus, with priority being given to second and third-termers, by a team of young legislators who are supporting De Venecia. Among them are Representatives Boyet Gonzales, Joey Salceda, Ace Barbers, Ricom Echeverri, Magi Gunigundo, Nonoy Andaya and Migs Zubiri.

Mahathir returns to his roots in Umno speech

NEWS ANALYSIS

Simon Martin

KUALA LUMPUR—Malaysia's ruling party has wound up a subdued three-day annual meeting, admitting that its 43-year political dominance is under threat from the opposition.

But Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad, who composed his confrontational and hard-hitting keynote party address during a sea cruise, has made it clear he has no intention of changing tack.

Instead he returned to his political roots with a speech which he acknowledged could have been titled, "The Malay Dilemma II."

"The Malay Dilemma," a book which Mahathir published in 1970 after his temporary expulsion from the United Malays National Organization (Umno), highlighted the perceived shortcomings of his own Malay race.

Mahathir, in his speech last Thursday, castigated Malays for laziness, greed, ingratitude toward Umno and squandering opportunities under a 30-year affirmative action program.

The premier, who marks 20 years in power next month, accepted no responsibility for Umno's declining fortunes.

In comments to reporters he professed indifference about how his attack would influence uncommitted voters. It was his duty as a leader to tell the truth, he said.

"It's too bad if they don't want to vote for me. What can I do? Some people want to live on Cloud Nine.".

Mahathir softened his message somewhat on Saturday in a 90-minute off-the-cuff closing speech—which earned him a standing ovation and demonstrated all his political and rhetorical skills.

"My view is that the Malays are on par with the other races. But what caused us to be left behind...is because we do not put in enough effort," he said.

Delegates said his keynote message was brave and necessary but some analysts said it was unlikely to go down well with young voters.

More than 650,000 new voters will be on the rolls at the next election, which must be held by 2004.

One analyst who declined to be identified said Mahathir made valid points about Malay underachievement compared to the minority Chinese.

"He's very unhappy that the Malays are moving away from Umno, I think he is just trying to make a point...it may not bring them back immediately but there are about three more years to the general election."

Another analyst disagreed.

"Malays are a lot more confident today than before, they don't need the kind of protector like they did in Umno before," said P. Ramasamy, political science professor at the National University of Malaysia.

Ramasamy told AFP Mahathir was "very angry and upset" that Malays are leaving Umno but the speech was unlikely to do the party any good.

"The more Umno harps on history, the more it might be history."

The three-day Umno assembly was in some ways noteworthy more for what was left unsaid than for what was said.

There was little or no mention of the sudden resignation in May of Finance Minister Daim Zainuddin, one of Mahathir's oldest confidants, nor of a series of unpopular bailouts of politically connected businesses.

Robert Broadfoot, of the Political and Economic Risk Consultancy in Hong Kong, said there had been speculation Mahathir would try to distance himself from some controversial policies and win back middle-ground Malay support.

"Rather than taking the opportunity to rebuild bridges, he just keeps on attacking, he's just following the same line and I don't think it will win back middle-ground Malay support," Broadfoot said.

"His type of rhetoric doesn't heal the wounds in the Malay community and is likely to alienate the community.

"I think Dr. Mahathir is out of tune with the younger generation."

Mahathir's keynote speech also contained a fierce attack on unspecified Western powers whom he said were siding with the opposition to bring down his government and recolonize Malaysia economically.

Analysts agree the rhetoric is different from the reality, with Malaysia welcoming both foreign investment and foreigners personally.

But Broadfoot said Mahathir was painting the wrong image of Malaysia, especially with China becoming an ever-stronger competitor for foreign investment.

"It (Malaysia) is not doing what's required to position itself. It's just yelling at the world." *AFP*

Mangoes are better than motherboards

COMMENTARY

Dean Jorge Bocobo

GLOBALIZATION has become the new code word among propagandists for the root cause of everything that ails us, and which we want to blame on other countries, particularly the rich and dominant ones. Like imperialism, in the jargon of the '60s, globalization was hijacked by the Left in the '90s and painted as the mother ship of all evils in the world today.

That is why, when she gets to the part of her State of the Nation address that has to do with the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo will be delivering some of the most carefully calibrated policy statements of her administration. After all, it was she who shepherded national legislation on Philippine participation in the WTO/GATT during her stint in the Senate, and is most closely associated with it. Now as President, she is at the helm during the period when many painful and difficult commitments must be fulfilled.

What is at stake, to be simplistic about it, is the place of the Philippines at the table of the world's nations. The complex of multilateral agreements and protocols that constitute the WTO/GATT has served as the foundation of the world's new trading economy since the end of the Cold War. But because these agreements are being struck among unequal nations, those that are heedless of their welfare are likely to lose out in a new era of unbridled competition. Let's face it. The new world order is a Darwinian arena in which the rule is really the survival of the fittest.

Having billed herself as an economist throughout her career, the President must show how her administration's economic strategy can pull the country out of a protracted period of political crisis and economic deterioration.

From the very beginning, the President has indicated that a centerpiece of her economic development programs will be a strong emphasis on Information and Computer Technology (ICT). She has personally taken a high profile in this high-tech area, even assuming the chairmanship of a steering committee promoting digital convergence among media, telecommunications and related technologies.

No doubt, this commitment is due to the good track record that computer-related businesses and microelectronic industries have had in the Philippines, and their contribution to the economy. But I seriously doubt that these high-tech businesses are what will power the engines of growth for the Philippines. Here's why.

Consider the semiconductor processing industry. The Philippines has been able to garner its share of the chip and board-level production and assembly operations of the world's major manufacturers from Japan, America and Europe. But as in an earlier era of industrial production, the work that is given to Philippine subsidiaries is merely intended to take advantage of our low labor rates. The real strategic value lies in the intellectual property of chip and process design, material science and the high level marketing and integration of the products, which are not done in the Philippines. Unless Filipino entrepreneurs begin to acquire this type of intellectual property, we shall always be just a part of somebody else's microelectronic production system, as we have been for decades.

With the economic downturn in America and Japan, and the transformation of the dot-com revolution into a dot-bomb debacle, the signs are turning inauspicious for the high-tech strategy. On the hardware manufacturing side, our labor rates are high compared to competitors like Bangladesh, Pakistan and China. On the technical services side, for call centers and help desks, we have some competitive edge in English proficiency and good availability of trained workers. But we are not as competitive in the more lucrative fields of programming and software development against countries like India as we think we could be, because of a relatively weak math and science program in schools. Without local high-tech enterprises to absorb them, training computer scientists and software developers only feeds the ongoing brain drain away from the country.

In crafting strategy and tactics for survival in the next decade, I think we must avoid the Filipino Basketball Syndrome. I know basketball is a great game. I love it myself, but let's face it, our future in international basketball competition is strictly limited. We would have been better off in world sport if we had developed sports like baseball, soccer and tennis, where physical height is not such a dominant factor as it is in basketball. Similarly, in the game of world trade, I believe we must develop a smarter strategy by choosing the playing fields on which we compete. ICT may be sexy like basketball, but it's a tough league to which we bring few if any natural advantages.

Which brings me to the issue of Philippine agriculture. Here is where our real comparative advantages may lie and where we can develop a competitive edge in the world. Agriculture was the major contributor to economic growth during the previous administration and the Philippines has been recognized as one of the world's biodiversity hotspots, harboring large numbers of the world's most valuable plant and animal species. Rather than complain and protest about how biopirates from other countries are exploiting our natural resources, it behooves us to identify and develop such resources for our own welfare.

Many unique fruits, herbs and vegetables, and maybe someday, genetically engineered vitamin A golden rice can be recognized as benchmark-setting world brands from this country. We are already serious competitors in abaca, pineapple and banana and some Filipino brands are becoming internationally competitive. For example, the Mabuhay Banana of Lapanday Foods Corp., a thriving Filipino multinational company, is well on its way to becoming established as a world brand. This suggests to me that the bits and bites of natural Philippines may help us be more successful in the global game of international trade than computer chips and the fading dotcom dream. Pomelos and mangoes could be better for us than motherboards and battery cables.

Overdose of Abu news

NEWS is like food. A daily dose of the same kind of food can turn off even the most patient eater. More so, if the food is not delicious or pleasing to the eyes.

READERS' ADVOCATE

Raul J. Palabrica

This must be how Jeffrey Perez (jeffrey.perez@ph.nestle.com) feels whenever he reads the news about the Abu Sayyaf bandits. He thinks there are more important things to report than the activities of this small band of criminals.

Perez wrote: "My teammates, some neighbors and I are fed up with the articles on the ASG, especially since there are no major developments, such as the truth of its claim that an American hostage has been killed or beheaded.

"This issue has been brought up almost every day for days now but no major developments have been presented which makes the news seem to be recycled. Recycling the news just makes the ASG feel triumphant that the world can't go on without hearing about the same dastardly acts it commits or has committed day after day.

"I thought there was an understanding with the media that the coverage of the crisis will be downplayed, if not totally blacked out. I would rather that your newspaper revived its enthusiasm to closely cover the developments in the cases against Mr. Estrada so these issues will not be blotted out from the memory of the Filipino nation."

If the editor in chief and editorial staff could have their way, they would not publish anything about the Abu Sayyaf or its criminal activities. There are more important national or local issues that deserve to see print in the newspaper, more so now when newsprint is very expensive.

But, according to the editor in chief, the newspaper cannot ignore the kidnapping of the Dos Palmas resort hostages. It is big news. Not because three Americans are involved, but because of its impact on the country's tourism industry and, in particular, the image of the Philippines abroad.

Developments

She explained that the appeal of the President to downplay the incident should not be interpreted to mean that news about efforts to free the hostages and bring the kidnappers to justice should not or cannot be published.

Rather, the President's plea should be looked at as a request to the media not to allow themselves to be used by the Abu Sayyaf to glorify its criminal activities or project its members to the public as idealistic Islamic activists. Except for one radio station, the media appear to have acceded to the President's request.

The editor in chief said the thrust of the INQUIRER's reporting of the hostage incident and military operations against the kidnappers is to give faith and credence to the statements of the spokesperson of the Armed Forces of the Philippines without ignoring the information independently gathered by the newspaper's Mindanao news bureau.

She posed a rhetorical question: Will the Abu Sayyaf problem disappear if the INQUIRER refrained from publishing the news about it? The public will be better served if they get know the real happenings in that incident than rely on unreliable rumors or text messages. In effect, she asked the readers not to shoot the messenger for being the bearer of bad news.

As to the developments of the cases filed against the ousted president, the editor in chief said the newspaper will continue to report on new developments in spite of the delaying tactics that highly paid (but not necessarily competent) lawyers resort to so they can continue to enjoy the ring of their cash registers.

Opinionated news

For reader Rene Banaag (imbjr@yahoo.com), something was wrong with the way the INQUIRER reported on June 13 the foreign trips of some senators. The news also carried a caricature of the newspaper's mascot, Goyito, who was drawn saying the words "Leaving on a jet plane."

Senate President Aquilino Pimentel Jr. went to the United States to attend the June 12 celebration of a Filipino-American community. Sen. Rodolfo Biazon was supposed to go there to attend a United Nations-sponsored conference. Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr. wanted to visit a daughter living in the United States.

At the end of the paragraph that enumerated the travel schedule were written the words "Excuses, excuses."

Apparently rising in defense of the senators, the reader wrote: "...the caption of a carabao singing the tune 'leaving on a jet plane' is uncalled for. The INQUIRER seems to ridicule our senators. It is quite irritating for a reader to read that my newspaper always thinks in a negative way.

"I believe the reporter should be neutral and let the readers judge for themselves if they are excuses or not. To emphasize the word 'excuses' three times is emphasizing that the senators are just making alibis. Why not write 'excuses?' (with a question mark) to emphasize that we have to believe it or not?"

The editor in chief gave a faint smile when informed about the reader's comment on the manner the news about the senators' trips was published. It was proof that some readers read the news with a fine-toothed comb. The accompanying caricatures are given equal importance as the news itself. The editors have reason to be more vigilant in the performance of their editing duties.

The news was not meant to put the senators concerned in a bad light, said the editor in chief. That was classic INQUIRER style—putting a little humor in otherwise serious or not-so-pleasant stories. A cartoon was even added to give a flippant touch to the news.

She admitted the inclusion of the word "excuses, excuses" had a naughty ring in it, but she found nothing wrong with the "leaving on a jet plane" phrase mouthed by Goyito. The three senators have to take a jet plane, whether Boeing 747 or Airbus 400, to get to the United States.

After the editor in chief had said her piece on the propriety of the use of Goyito and the words complained of, here's my two cents' worth on the matter of timing and objective of the foreign travels mentioned.

If the senators concerned used their personal money for the trips, that is, no public funds were spent, fine. That's their privilege. They have the right to throw away their money any way they want to.

But if the people's money was used, by way of appropriation in the Senate's budget, then it's a different story. It's an unnecessary waste of public funds at a time when the country is suffering from a huge budgetary deficit.

Attending an Independence Day celebration by Filipino-Americans in the United States has no redeeming value that will redound to the best interests of the country. Only the egos of the expatriate Filipinos will be satisfied in the process and nothing else.

Neither is attending a UN conference that important as to justify the expenditure of precious dollars. This activity is no different from the meetings of the Inter-Parliamentary Union and other conferences by lawmakers from different parts of the world that serve as excuses for junkets by senators and congressmen during legislative recesses.

Indeed, there is much sense in the joke "Join Congress and see the world (at public expense)."

* * *

The readers' advocate may be reached at the following address: "The Readers' Advocate" c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City. Or through fax nos. 897-4793 to 94, or readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph.

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Saving Intramuros correctly

INTRAMUROS continues to be one of the most interesting and beautiful historical landmarks one can go to in Manila. The "walls" after more than 300 years are relatively intact and preserved with its surrounding greenery, a rare sight in the jungle of Manila.

The article "Intramuros in danger" last June 11, 2001 wrongly gives the impression of exploitation and abuse. People should have seen Intramuros after World War II and even until the '80s when most of its walls were devastated and the surrounding area was generally shrouded in darkness, making it an ideal haven and hideout for thieves and drug addicts.

We should recognize the efforts of the government agency tasked with preserving this vital historical landmark. With the combined help of the private sector, Intramuros is now worth visiting.

Although there should be safeguards against wanton commercialization of historical spots, we should look at development as an opportunity to enhance historical appeal.

We cannot be a purist in the strict sense of preservation. We live in an ever-changing world.—**ALBERTO H. SUANSING, past president, Rotary Club of Intramuros-Manila, El Amenacer Bldg., 744 Calle Real Del Palacio, Intramuros, Manila**

Different definition of national territory

I WISH to commend my friend and colleague Antonio T. Carpio for his column "Time for charter change." (PDI, 6/10/01)

However, on the Article on National Territory (Art. I), the proposed amendment he raises has already been done. The present charter does not include territories over which the Philippines has "historic [right] or legal title." This provision was found in the 1972 Constitution. The present Constitution, precisely for the reasons Carpio cited, removed this phrase and replaced it with "over which the Philippines has sovereignty or jurisdiction."—**ADOLFO S. AZCUNA, Cedar Mansion II, Amber Drive, Ortigas Center, Pasig City**

Asbestos still potent carcinogenic

PUBLIC health environmental issues have not been given the attention they deserve in the public mind. It was thus a breath of fresh air to find Tessa R. Salazar's article, "Asbestos threat: Inspection of old government buildings and commercial establishments urged" last May 15.

Arturo Nuera, a researcher of the Philippine project study of the International Federation of Building and Wood Workers, provided accurate information on the life-threatening hazards of asbestos, a construction material that is still commonly found here in buildings constructed in the 1960s through the 1980s. While the demand for asbestos has all but disappeared in neighboring countries, such as Australia, New Zealand and Singapore, the demand for cheap asbestos-containing cement board is still very strong in the Philippines; a fact that can be attributed to our people's greater concern for economy, rather than health and safety. The erroneous claims of the asbestos industry, that chrysotile or "white asbestos" is safe, has misled people into making incorrect decisions in selecting building materials.

It cannot be overemphasized that asbestos, chrysotile or whatever type, is inherently a carcinogen. This fact is well established by the International Agency for Research on Cancer, as well as by Occupational Safety and Health authorities throughout the world. The asbestos industry lauds the US Court of Appeals decision in 1991, which voided most of the EPA's Asbestos, Ban and Phase-Out Rule (1989) as proof of the safety of asbestos. In reality, the basis of that court decision was a mere legal technicality and not because the health hazards had been disproved.

Cement or resins in asbestos boards and insulating materials can only do so much to hold the asbestos fibers down. Under normal use, there are countless ways for natural and man-made elements to wear down the cement, and send the microscopic carcinogenic fibers into the air for us to breathe in. Countless people who have been unknowingly exposed to asbestos in public buildings will one day wonder what caused their cancer.

What a pity. By simply eliminating asbestos from the environment, all that suffering and grief can easily be avoided.

Now, who will initiate the inspection and removal of asbestos from old government buildings, office buildings, hospitals, movie houses and theaters, schools, factories and homes?—**FRANCIS X. HOW, managing director, Globe Care Services Inc.**

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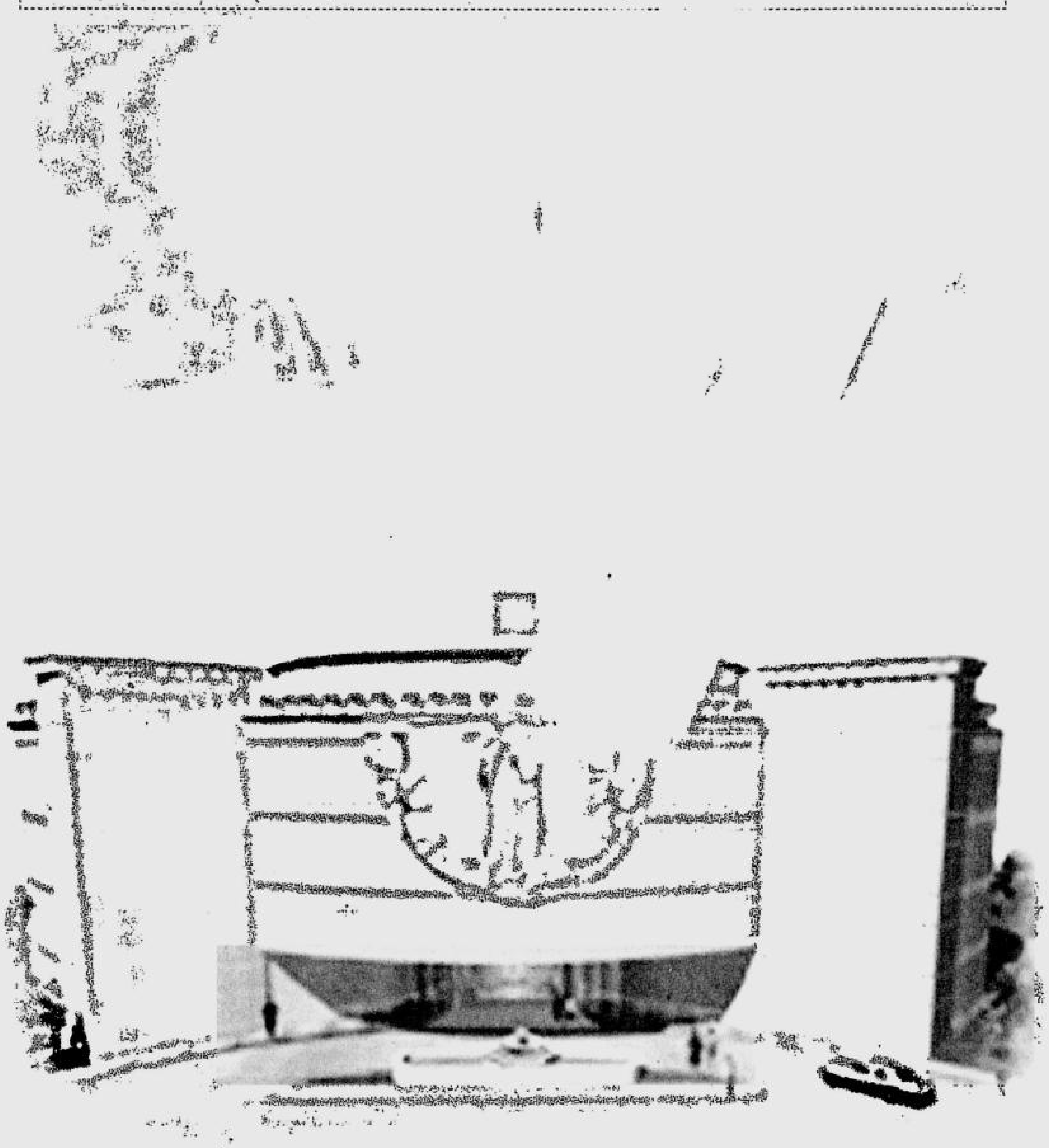

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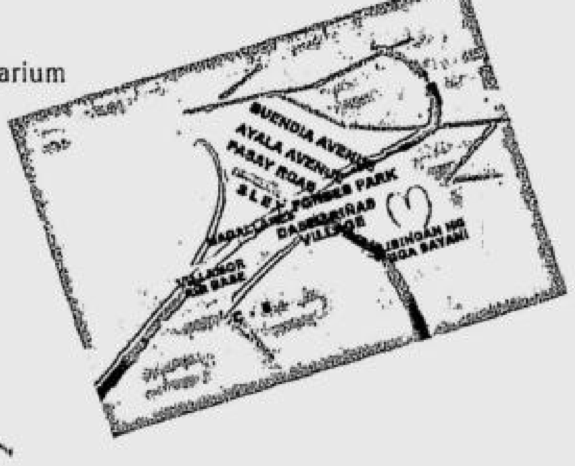

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Making the EIA system work

THIS is in connection with the report by Yolanda Fuertes last June 17, 2001 on the suspension of the Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC) issued to the Goldsun Cement Project in Agno, Pangasinan.

We laud the efforts of Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez to resolve the conflict. It is a test case for the Philippine Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) System. How well the environment secretary and Department of Environment and Natural Resources officials handle this case will either strengthen or weaken the system itself.

Unlike the compliance systems of other agencies, the Philippine EIA system is a process that ensures the participation of affected stakeholders in the review of EIA studies undertaken to secure the ECC for the project. While some investors may say that this is being "too open" to groups who may "derail their investment plans," we feel that a proper appraisal of stakeholders' concerns must be undertaken. This ensures that measures to mitigate negative environmental impact and enhance the environment are undertaken where they also live and pursue their livelihood.

However, the effectiveness of the EIA system lies not only with whether local communities and political pressure groups accept or reject the project. The project should also meet the government's technical standards, which are at par, if not better, than those of other countries in Asia. In effect, there should be proper balancing of interests under the policy of sustainable development.

Our call to both the supporters of and opposers to the cement plant project is that they strengthen the EIA system, by positing criticisms and objections sincerely, with the proper technical references. This is what we call responsible stakeholder participation, which makes the EIA system work, and democracy a working concept felt and practiced at the grass roots. Likewise, DENR officials must continue to be courageous in facing these pressure groups. Their technical training and experience must be honed further in order to help facilitate the resolution of these conflicts.—**ANTONIO S. TRIA, president, Philippine Environmental Industry Association Inc.**

Trigger-happy DAR guards

IN THE EARLY morning of June 11, farmers from different parts of Davao del Norte trooped to the Department of Agrarian Reform Region 11 office to hear the long overdue official results of their appeals regarding the real status of their lands. The farmers locked the main gate to pressure regional director Rodolfo Inson to face them and relay the information himself.

The farmers were met by bullets fired by the office's security guards.

The DAR has the responsibility to implement agrarian reform. Where it is remiss, people cannot be but restless. Hiring people untrained to handle legitimate though dramatic protests exacerbates already tense situations.

Task Force Detainees of the Philippines (TFDP) denounces the shooting. The DAR should immediately reimburse the medical expenses of the wounded farmers.

The TFDP also calls for an investigation of the flawed training given to security guards of the Philvets Security Agency. The agency should also share in the responsibility of paying for the medical expenses of the victims.

The security guards and their officers should also be prosecuted.

If the regional office is not willing to open itself to farmers then the DAR national office should respond to the farmers' reasonable demands.

Legitimate protest actions should be listened to, not suppressed with force.—**MAX M. DE MESA, deputy director, Task Force Detainees of the Philippines, 19 Malingap St., Teachers' Village, 1101 Quezon City**

IF you have any complaints, grievances or suggestions about the treatment of news and photos by the Inquirer, you may write to the Readers' Advocate, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue, corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, City of Makati or send a fax to Nos. 897-4793, 897-4794, or e-mail readersadvocate @inquirer.com.ph

Writers of letters to the editor are requested to include their complete address and telephone or pager number or e-mail address for verification purposes. The Inquirer will not publish any letter unless such information is supplied.

Powerful quake in Peru kills 47

AREQUIPA, Peru—A major earthquake measuring 7.9 magnitude struck southern Peru on Saturday, killing at least 47 people and injuring about 550, civil defense officials said.

President Valentin Paniagua set off to the zone of destruction around Moquegua, 1,369 km south of Lima, and Arequipa, Peru's second largest city 1,011 km south of the capital, but was forced to turn back shortly after take-off by technical trouble.

President-elect Alejandro Toledo said he had postponed a trip to the United States on Sunday to "extend a hand of solidarity" to the suffering. He told CPN radio Paniagua was setting out again on Saturday night and they would meet in the disaster zone on Sunday.

Civil defense spokesman Jorge Arguera said 22 people had died in Arequipa, 16 in Moquegua and nine in Tacna, some 1,290 km south of Lima. He said the toll could rise.

"There is an enormous quantity of injured and the dead are literally thrown about on the ground," said an RPP radio reporter in Moquegua, a small town with cobbled streets and mud adobe houses, where 20 to 25 people were reported injured.

In Arequipa—dubbed "the white city" for its fine colonial architecture and beautiful churches—the number of injured reached about 200, civil defense spokesman Juan Carlos Puertocarrero said. Television pictures showed piles of masonry blocking the sidewalks.

Puertocarrero said another 200 or so people were injured in Tacna, where more than half the city's homes were reported damaged.

Peruvian officials said the earthquake measured 6.0 on the Richter scale but the US Geological Survey reported it as magnitude 7.9. It was Peru's strongest quake since May 1970, when a quake of the same magnitude killed 70,000 and left some 600,000 homeless.

The quake struck at 3:33 p.m. Its epicenter was 82 km northwest of the southern town of Ocona, Peru's Geophysical Institute said.

According to Moquegua residents, a landslide had blocked one of the town's chief roads and many houses had collapsed.

"We have nowhere to escape to," one man told RPP. Many residents took to the streets, preparing to spend the night outside in parks and other secure areas, the radio said.

"Some 90 percent of houses in Chuquibamba, (near Moquegua) were destroyed," Puertocarrero said.

Tearful Peruvians phoned in to radio stations frantic for news of their family members in the affected areas.

Juan Podesta, head of Peru's civil defense agency, was flying to the area with 20 tons of tents, clothing and food.

Much of the famous graceful stone architecture in Arequipa's colonial center was damaged and one of the cathedral's towers had fallen off.

Arequipa's mayor, Juan Manuel Guillen, said a state of emergency had been declared. The quake cut off electricity supplies, plunging the city into darkness, but power was restored by around 6 p.m. *Reuters*

Bin Laden poised to hit US, Israel interests, says TV

DUBAI—Fighters of Saudi-born extremist Osama bin Laden are preparing to hit US and Israeli interests around the world, an Arab television channel reported Saturday.

"I met with Bin Laden near Kandahar (Afghanistan) over the last few days and his main supporters said in front of him that there will be a big surprise over the next two weeks," a correspondent for the Middle East Broadcasting Center (MBC) said.

"It will be a hard hit against US and Israeli targets across the world," the reporter said.

Among the bin Laden supporters quoted were Abu Hafs, considered as Bin Laden's right-hand man, and Ayman al-Zawahirit, the leader of the Egyptian Islamic Jihad.

The United States on Friday ordered its war fleet in the Gulf to put to sea because of what it termed credible terrorist threats and published a worldwide warning for US citizens traveling abroad.

Washington holds Bin Laden responsible for the 1998 bombings of its embassies in Kenya and Tanzania, which killed more than 200 people.

"For the entire interview Bin Laden was silent, probably because he received instructions from the Taliban (Afghanistan's ruling militia) not to speak to the press," the reporter said.

"The fighters of bin Laden are on a state of alert," he said, adding that "draconian security precautions" had been taken for his visit to the bin Laden camp.

"I was not authorized to film the interview, only to record it," he said.

The reporter also said that "none of the Taliban's men were among bin Laden's guards."

He said the majority of his entourage was compromised of veterans of the Afghan Mujahideen's war against Soviet forces following their invasion of the country in 1979. *AFP*

US Embassy in Bahrain reopens after red alert

MANAMA—The US Embassy in Bahrain, home of the US Fifth Fleet, reopened on Sunday after a one-day closure to the public for a security review, embassy officials said.

The US State Department announced Friday that it was temporarily closing embassies in Bahrain and Senegal to the public to review security.

The mission in Manama remained shut on Saturday, the first day of the working week in the Muslim state, while the embassy in Dakar closed its doors early on Friday, and a decision would be made on whether to reopen Monday.

State Department spokesman Charles Hunter said "overseas posts may close temporarily in response to threat information, security concerns or simply to review their security postures."

The State Department also issued a "worldwide caution" Friday, warning Americans of possible terrorist attacks after last week's US indictments of 14 people for a 1996 bombing in Saudi Arabia that killed 19 US airmen.

Monday is the fifth anniversary of the bombing.

The US naval fleet in the Gulf was at sea on Saturday after being ordered out of port following what officials called a credible threat of attack against US interests by forces linked to exiled Saudi militant Osama bin Laden.

Six ships were rushed out of a Middle East port and a Marine Corps exercise was called off in Jordan on Friday after US forces in the Gulf region were placed on the highest anti-terrorist alert, "Threatcon Delta."

The Pentagon and the Fifth Fleet headquarters in Manama have refused to comment on the moves. "We don't discuss our ships' movements for security reasons," a defense department spokeswoman said. *AFP*

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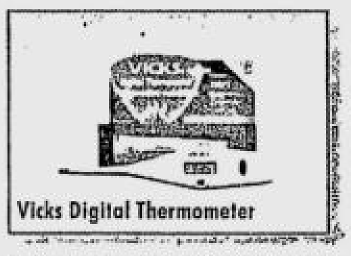
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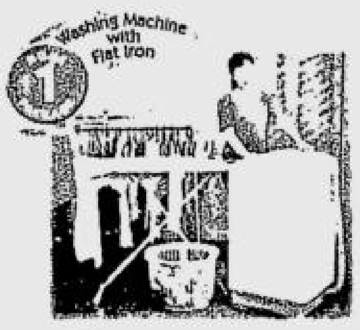
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7. Redemption period is from April 30 to September 30, 2001. Gifts not claimed after the last redemption day will be forfeited in favor of BPI Family Bank with prior DTI approval.
8. Should the client require delivery of appliances/furniture, delivery fees will be charged to the client's account.
9. In case client's gift items are temporarily out of stock, client will be advised by the redemption center as to when specific item will be available or client may choose another item of equivalent value.
10. This offer cannot be combined with other on-going offers of BPI/BPI Family Bank.
11. All employees of the UNIBANK, its subsidiaries, its PR agency (Image Dimensions Advertising), are disqualified from joining the promo.
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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1170 Series of 2001.

'Downfall' spawns doubt on Castro's health

HAVANA—Fidel Castro's apparent fainting spell during a speech here Saturday has sparked renewed concerns about the Cuban leader's overall state of health just two months ahead of his 75th birthday.

Castro had delivered two hours of a speech to 60,000 people in a Havana neighborhood when his voice began to falter. He then leaned heavily to the side of the lectern, according to a live broadcast on state-run television.

Castro's escort and nearby government officials, including Vice President Carlos Lage, rushed to his aid, while the television camera quickly focused on the crowd.

Some women in the crowd began to wail and burst into tears, as others chanted "Fidel, Fidel!" and waved flags, according to witnesses at the event.

The crowd surged toward the podium but was held back by security personnel.

Foreign Minister Felipe Perez Roque immediately took over the microphone and urged the audience to remain calm.

He said Castro had had a "momentary downfall" due to the sweltering heat and an overwhelming workload over the past few days.

He appealed for "calm, in the name of the direction of our party and our government."

The broadcast ended but was back 10 minutes later, showing the resilient Cuban leader on stage again.

"I am fine. Do not worry," a refreshed Castro assured his audience. "I could not finish (my speech), but I'll finish it this afternoon, at the time of the rebroadcast. It will be less hot then."

"I will rest a few hours," Castro said. "The truth is that last night I had no sleep."

He added: "I'm in one piece, so we'll see each other tonight."

The interruption was out of character for the Cuban president, who is known for prolific speeches that often stretch out over several hours.

The noon broadcast of state-run news said that Castro had to interrupt his speech because of "fatigue" but gave no further details.

During the event, Castro was giving an energetic speech in which he defended the Cubans arrested in the United States on espionage charges.

Castro has toughed out an almost 40-year US economic embargo, a US-abetted invasion attempt, 10 US presidents and countless assassination attempts. *AFP*

Hong Kong cholera: New case

HONG KONG—Hong Kong authorities confirmed Sunday another cholera case, two days after claiming the recent outbreak was under control.

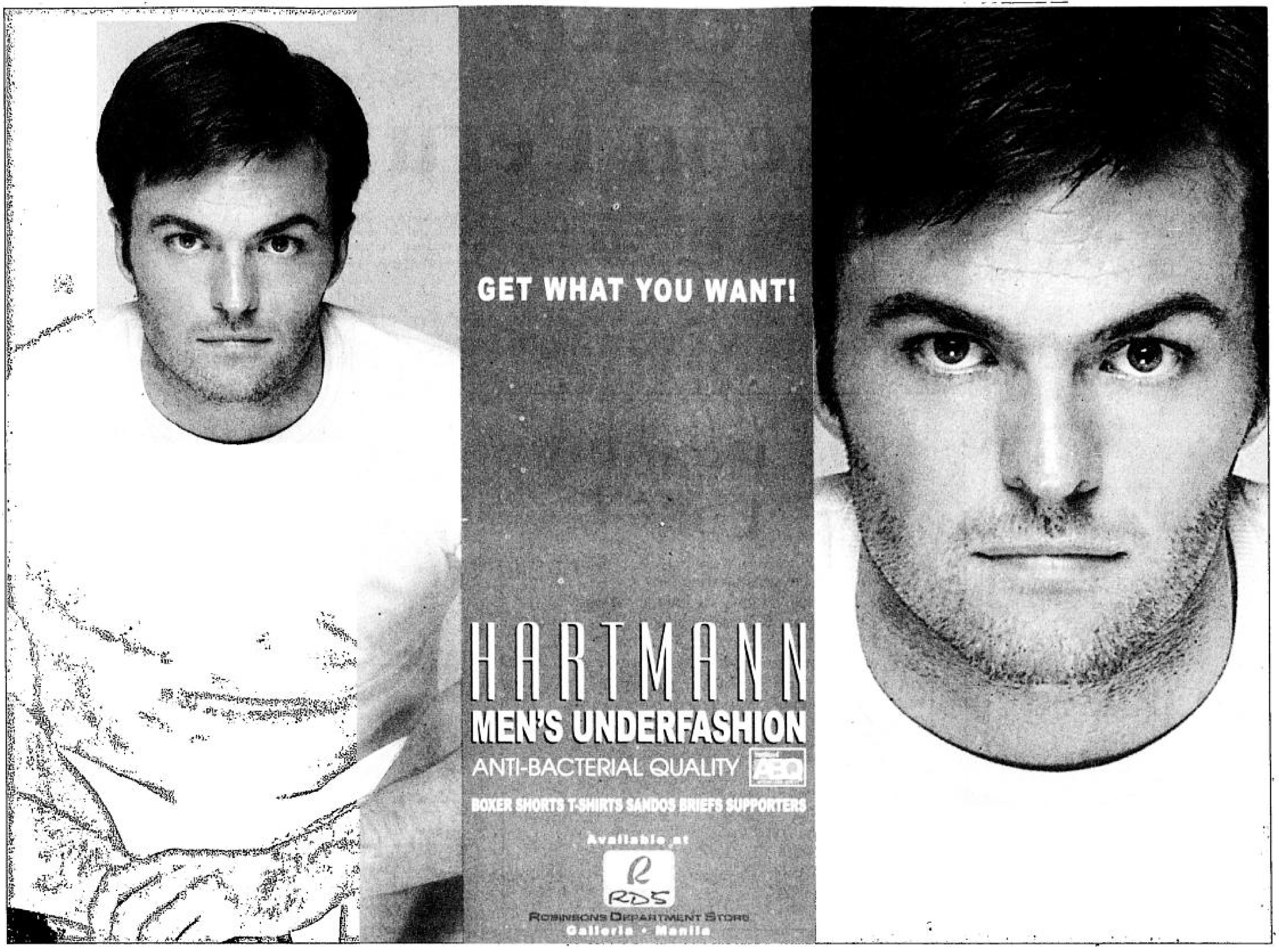
The latest person to contract the disease, a 52-year-old man, suffered from diarrhea and was admitted to hospital Saturday. He remained in hospital in a stable condition, a government statement said Sunday.

He had traveled outside Hong Kong during part of the incubation period, the statement added.

Eight confirmed cholera cases have been reported in Hong Kong this year. Of these, one was an imported case in May, six were local cases reported in June and the most recent case had not yet been classified.

Investigations revealed that irregularities in food preparation and lapses in hygiene standards had contributed to the outbreak, officials said.

There were 71 cases of cholera in 1998—blamed on heavy rain and hot weather—and 18 in 1999. *AFP*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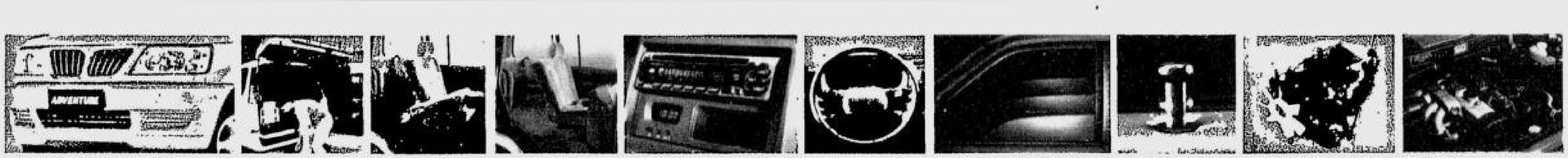

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Pope begins Ukraine visit, begs pardon for 'errors'

KIEV—Pope John Paul II asked Ukraine's Orthodox Christians Saturday to forgive Catholic "errors" at the start of a controversial five-day visit here, but rejected charges that his church was out to convert the local population.

The ailing 81-year-old pontiff was welcomed at Kiev's Borispil airport by President Leonid Kuchma, who has angered Orthodox militants by inviting the head of the Catholic church to the former Soviet republic.

Orthodox leaders in Kiev and Moscow warned that the visit in the midst of a bitter dispute between the Orthodoxy and Catholicism would further sour relations between the two churches.

But dressed in his customary white robes, the pontiff seemed alert and delighted with the reception as he walked unaided down the steps from the airplane. "I rejoice that I am now on Ukrainian soil," he said.

"I have not come here with the intention to proselytise, but as a witness for Christ, together with all the Christians of the whole church and ecclesiastical community," the pope added in Ukrainian.

Speaking at the airport, he sought to defuse militant opposition to his visit by appealing to the Orthodox to forgive "the errors committed towards them in the ancient and recent past," a reference to the sack of Byzantium by crusaders in 1204, and the interfaith disputes of the 1990s.

Kuchma hailed the pope as "not only the head of the Catholic church but also a remarkable figure of modern times" and "an unbeatable fighter for human rights and dignity."

Referring to the dispute sparked by his visit to Ukraine whose Orthodox militants who regard the pontiff as a "forerunner of the Anti-Christ," the pope said he came to Kiev as "pilgrim of peace and brotherhood."

He added that he hoped he would "be received with friendship all those who, without belonging to the (Catholic) church, have an open heart for dialogue and cooperation."

Since the collapse 10 years ago of the Soviet Union, which outlawed religion, Ukraine's Orthodox majority has accused the Roman Catholics of seeking to convert the population, taking control of parishes and seizing church assets.

He added that he had looked forward to making the visit to Ukraine, which borders his native Poland, for many years and had "prayed that it would take place."

And in a bid to smoothe over Christianity's East-West clash, the religious equivalent of the Cold War, the pope recalled "the terrible years of the Soviet dictatorship," and seemed to link a settlement of Ukraine's religious conflict to its further integration into Europe. *AFP*

POPE John Paul II blesses pilgrims from the altar building in Kiev's Chakya airport as he prepares to celebrate Mass June 24. The 81-year-old Pope's five-day trip to Ukraine will make him weave through a religious and political minefield that will test his power of persuasion and reconciliation. REUTERS

Cheney oil firm had greater Iraq dealings than stated, says Post

WASHINGTON—The oilfield services company Dick Cheney headed before he became US vice president had far more extensive financial dealings with Iraq than Cheney has acknowledged, The Washington Post reported on Saturday.

Citing UN records and oil industry executives, the newspaper said two subsidiaries of Halliburton Co. <HAL.N> had contracts to sell $73 million in oil production equipment and spare parts to Iraq while Cheney was chairman and CEO of the Dallas-based company.

The newspaper said, according to UN records, the subsidiaries, Dresser-Rand and Ingersoll Dresser Pump Co., sold material to Baghdad through French affiliates from the first half of 1997 to the summer of 2000. Cheney resigned as chairman of Halliburton in August.

Halliburton's dealings with Iraq were first reported last year. But the Post said UN records it recently obtained show the business was more extensive than originally reported or acknowledged by the vice president.

Cheney's spokeswoman, Juleanna Glover Weiss, said the two companies were joint ventures operated by Dresser at the time it was taken over by Halliburton, and Halliburton sold the units "as soon as it was legally feasible."

"The vice president never wanted any companies under his control to do business with Iraq, even if that business was allowed under the oil-for-food program," Weiss said.

"Halliburton divested itself as soon as it was legally feasible," she said, adding that the contracts themselves were "perfectly legal and within the law."

Mary Matalin, Cheney's counselor, was quoted by the Post as saying that if he "was ever in a conversation or meeting where there was a question of pursuing a project with someone in Iraq, he said, 'No.'"

"In a joint venture, he would not have reviewed all their existing contracts," Matalin said. "The nature of those joint ventures was that they had a separate governing structure, so he had no control over them."

During the presidential campaign, Cheney said he had imposed a "firm policy" at Halliburton against trading with Iraq. The Post said Cheney has offered contradictory accounts of how much he knew about Halliburton's dealings with Iraq.

Former executives at the Halliburton subsidiaries told the Post they had never heard objections—from Cheney or any other company official—to trading with Baghdad.

"Halliburton and Ingersoll-Rand, as far as I know, had no official policy about that, other than we would be in compliance with applicable US and international laws," former Ingersoll executive Cleive Dumas was quoted as saying. Dumas oversaw Ingersoll Dresser Pump's business in the Middle East, including Iraq.

Such trade did not violate US law as long as it occurred within the 1996 UN-supervised program that permits Iraq to export oil to pay for food, medicine and humanitarian goods. In 1998, the oil-for-food program was expanded to allow Baghdad to import spare parts for its oil facilities.

Cheney has pushed for a review of US policy toward countries such as Iraq, Iran and Libya, arguing that unilateral sanctions penalize American companies. *Reuters*

Belgrade paves way for Milosevic extradition

BELGRADE—The Yugoslav government passed a decree on Saturday paving the way for the transfer of war crimes suspects such as former president Slobodan Milosevic to the UN war crimes tribunal in The Hague.

The decree, which has provoked a crisis in the government as it is bitterly opposed by the junior coalition partner, sets out the legal procedure for the handover of indictees wanted by the tribunal but does not make the transfer automatic.

Deputy Prime Minister Miroljub Labus said the decree—passed under heavy Western pressure ahead of an international donors' conference for Yugoslavia—would come into effect on Sunday and the handover of suspects could start "within days."

Although officials in the reformist-dominated government tried to play down the decree as a routine step, it formalized a major shift in Belgrade's relations with the tribunal, which has been regarded for years by many Serbs as biased against them.

Labus said he believed there were indictments against 16 Yugoslav citizens and they would all have to be handed over.

"There will be no bargaining about them. The Hague will demand the extradition of these people and we will have to do it," Labus said after the cabinet session boycotted by all but one minister from the Montenegrin junior coalition partner.

Pro-democracy reformers who ousted Milosevic last October used their majority in the federal cabinet to adopt the measure. *Reuters*

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Monday, June 25, 2001
12th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: *Gen 12:1-9*
Gospel: *Mt 7:1-5*

Jesus said to his disciples, "Do not judge and you will not be judged. In the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and the measure you use for others will be used for you. Why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye and not see the plank in your own eye? How can you say to your brother: 'Come, let me take the speck from your eye,' as long as that plank is in your own? Hypocrite, take first the plank out of your own eye, then you will see clear enough to take the speck out of your brother's eye."

Commentary

Jesus came to inaugurate the time of God's final judgement and the Reign of God. For him God is the only one to judge because everything comes from God and belongs to him. All people are God's children and thus special to him like an only begotten child. Jesus' mission is to look for the lost sheep of Israel, not to judge. He is faithful to this mission up to the very end. He judges no one and asks from his disciples to do the same. He teaches his disciples not to interfere with God's justice, but to remain obedient to God and to improve the quality of this obedience. It is obedience to God's infinite love and compassion.

Heavenly Father, we are easily tempted to judge others. Teach us to honor and respect them as your beloved children.

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

CRIMINAL LAW (AGGRAVATING CIRCUMSTANCES)—Evident premeditation—For evident premeditation to aggravate a crime, there must be proof, as clear as the evidence of the crime itself, of the following elements: (1) the time when the offender determined to commit the crime; (2) an act manifestly indicating that he clung to his determination; and (3) sufficient lapse of time, between determination and execution, to allow himself to reflect upon the consequences of his act. For this circumstance to be appreciated, there must be direct evidence showing a plan or preparation to kill, or proof that the accused meditated and reflected upon his decision to kill the victim. Here, there is no such demonstration of calculation and previous resolution on the part of the three accused. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Quisumbing, Second Division, People v. Baltar, Jr., G.R. No. 125306, December 11, 2000]

DIGEST BY R.B. VERA

Prayer call saved many in India train crash

KADALUNDI, India—A timely appeal for help summoned via the battered speaker of a mosque saved the lives of many people inside a train that fell into a river in southern India, a local Muslim priest said Sunday.

Saker Hussain, the head priest of the mosque, said he called for rescue volunteers instead of reading out evening prayers on the speaker Friday as soon as he heard the news of the nearby accident.

"It was time for the prayers, but that was secondary. I announced that there was an accident and there were a lot of people trapped in the submerged compartments," he said.

The Mangalore-Madras express train fell into the Kadalundi river in the state of Kerala after a 120-year-old bridge collapsed, killing 59 people and injuring more than 200.

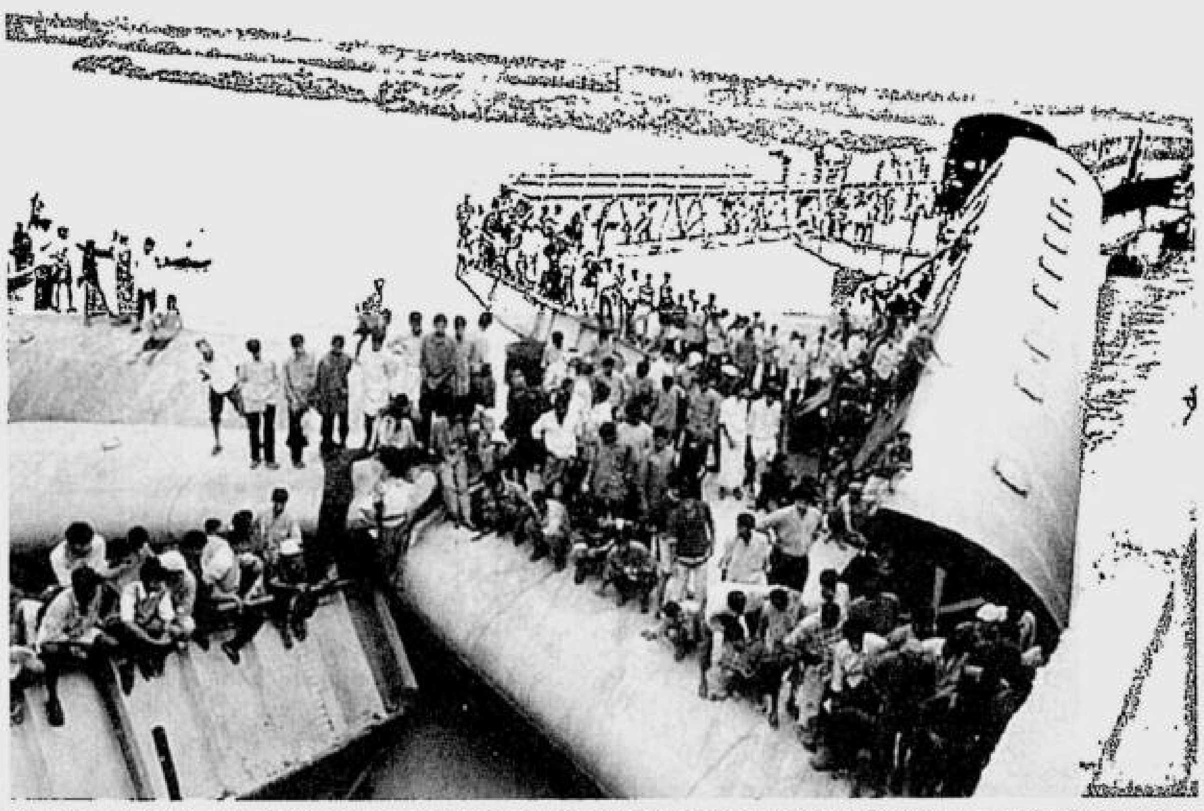
Local residents said villagers could hear the priest's call within a radius of six km and more than 300 volunteers came forward at once.

Many of those who survived the accident were rescued by villagers who rushed to the scene and pulled passengers through the windows of the flooded wagons.

State authorities, who later joined the rescue efforts, used the same speaker to appeal to a huge crowd onlookers to move away and enable them to carry on with the operation.

"At the time of need, a small speaker mattered the most. I will always cherish the moment that I took a decision to use it to summon help," Hussain said, adding he was overwhelmed by the response.

"That was the best sight I ever saw in my life," he said. *AFP*



PEOPLE gather beside the wreckage of a train crash near the southern Indian city of Kerala, June 23. The accident which took place on Friday night in which three train cars tumbled from a bridge into a river, claimed three more lives on Saturday and took the death toll to 59. REUTERS

Hong Kong suicides soar to 915 as debts mount

HONG KONG—Suicide numbers in Hong Kong have soared to a three-year high as rising levels of debt due to the economic slowdown hit hard, a help group said.

Some 702 men and 213 women took their own lives in 2000 outstripping figures in the previous two years, figures released by the Coroner's Office showed Saturday.

Samaritan Befrienders chairman Wong Yao told the Sunday Morning Post that mounting debt as a result of the economic slowdown was the main reason for the increased number of suicides.

He said nearly 25 percent of those who committed suicide were unemployed.

Twenty-two percent of the total were aged between 40 and 49, while 19 percent were aged 30 to 39.

The most common form of suicide remained leaping off buildings followed by hanging and inhaling carbon monoxide from burning charcoal.

The total number of suicides in 1999 was 882 and 868 in 1998. *AFP*

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Singapore seen becoming military might in region

SINGAPORE—The tiny city-state of Singapore is set to emerge as one of the strongest military forces in the region, the security analysis magazine, Jane's Defense Weekly, said Sunday.

In its latest weekly report, the magazine said plans to acquire new military hardware and an emphasis on technology would transform Singapore into a major expeditionary force over the next decade.

"The next 10 years will see a continuation of a major shift by the SAF (Singapore Armed Forces) to introduce new military capabilities that should make it the regions's strongest fighting force," the magazine said.

The report was compiled after a series of interviews with senior Singaporean defense officials.

Singapore's Chief of Defense Force Lim Chuan Poh said the introduction of new capabilities would dominated the SAF's development in coming years.

"Learning how to operate submarines. Introducing a new generation of fighter aircraft, evolving new land-fighting concepts as we replace the AMX-135M1 (light tank). These are all very challenging new capabilities that we're trying to bring to the SAF," he said.

The tiny island-state was planning to acquire at least 12 new AH-64D Apache Longbow helicopters and was considering replacements for its A4-SU Super Skyhawks and F-5 Tigers, which will be phased out in 5-10 years.

Possible replacements include the French-made Rafale, Britain's Eurofighter Typhoon and the F-15 Eagle and F/A-18 Super Hornet from the United States.

Orders for six French-made frigates placed last year were due for delivery in early 2003 and would give the city-state "its first real blue water capability and its first experience of naval helicopters," the report said.

The affluent island republic invests huge resources in building up its defense capability and has regularly expressed concern that regional turmoil has made it vulnerable to outside forces despite domestic stability.

Defense spending is the second largest expenditure on the government's budget behind social spending and community services.

According to Jane's, military research and development now accounts for four percent of the defense budget, up from one percent a decade ago, and the figure is poised to rise further.

Earlier this year, the government announced it would increase defense spending by 6.5 percent to $10.26 billion for the current fiscal year from April 1.

The city-state participated in more than 70 exercises with its military partners last year.

Minister of Defense Tony Tan told the publication the Five Power Defense Arrangement (FPDA) still played a role in maintaining regional stability.

"Our view is that the FPDA is very important, particularly in these unsettled times," he said. *AFP*

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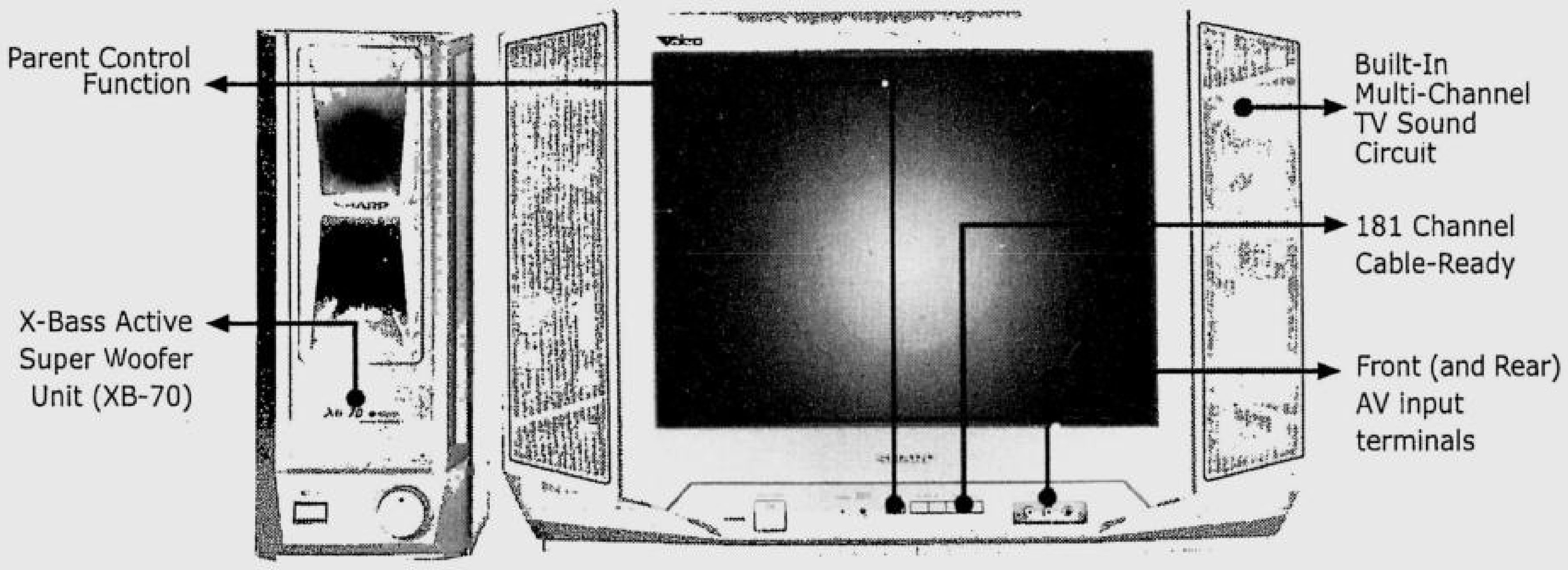
18th Boar Auction

The Philippine Swine Foundation in cooperation with the International Training Center on Pig Husbandry will be conducting its 18th Boar Auction on June 28, 2001, Thursday at the ITCPH Multi-purpose Hall at Marauoy, Lipa City, Batangas.

As part of the genetic improvement program of the country, 41 genetically superior boars coming from seven local breeding farms were put on performance test. Three major traits, Average Daily Gain (ADG), Feed Conversion Ratio (FCR) and Backfat Thickness (B.F.), were considered in the performance test . Boars were subjected to body conformation and physical fitness. Boars that pass both performance test and body conformation will be auctioned. Boars are managed uniformly and fed with Purina Chows donated by Agribrands Philippines Inc.

Lectures on A.I. - Cost Efficient Swine Reproduction by Dr. Ida Mayol-Reyes, President and General Manager of Eagle Agro A.I. Center and on Reproductive Performance of Sows Bred at Different Days After Weaning by Dr. Valentino G. Argañosa, Professor Emeritus, IAS-UPLB and Project Consultant will be given in the morning. Free registration starts at 9:30 am.

Before you decide to get a TV or VCD karaoke, here are some points to consider.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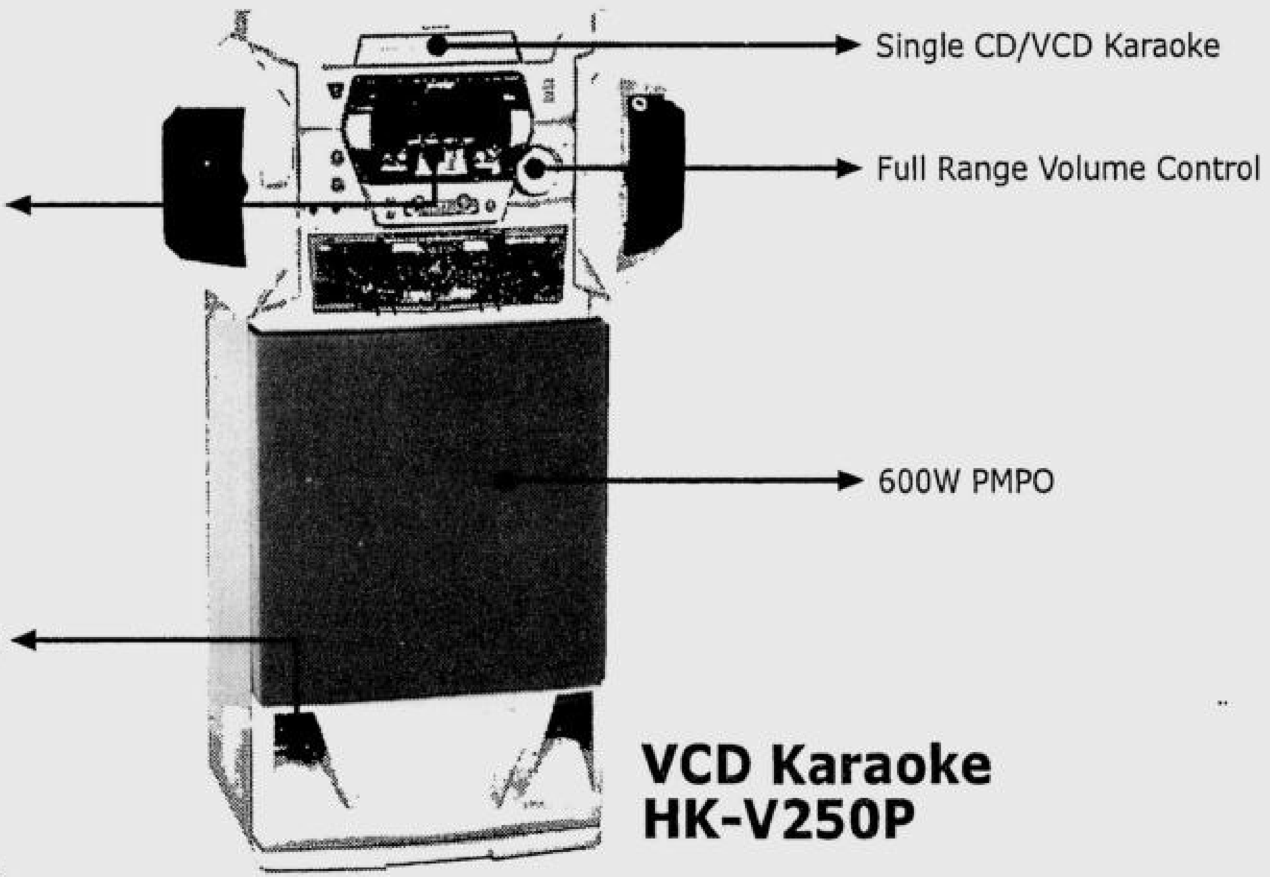
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Across the NATION

TONY BERGONIA, Assistant Editor

Security firms earn from kidnap jitters

By Vincent Cabreza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—Paranoia over organized kidnap-for-ransom gangs has turned the security and detective business in Luzon into a lucrative industry, a security analyst here said.

The industry has also spread its earnings wide enough to benefit moonlighting police officers and government agents, police acknowledged.

Elmer Lopez, a Baguio-based security consultant for a Metro Manila detective firm, said standard security agencies and "executive security" contractors had been booked since March, following a series of kidnap-for-ransom incidents in Metro Manila, Baguio and parts of Central Luzon.

The most controversial kidnapping case was the March 8 abduction and murder of University of the Philippines College Baguio student Giancarlo Leung and his friend, Tihani Tingal.

Lopez said the case managed to revive interest in private security because of growing mistrust in standard law enforcement operations.

An official of a security firm here noted that most of their clients were bankers and foreign corporate executives, both convenient targets of organized crime.

"Our clients have become more cautious about government law enforcement agencies because their orientation had not been about crime prevention. Operating security firms, on the other hand, offer good security plans to prevent crimes, so there is a glut in demand today," Lopez said in Filipino.

Police sources from the regional police headquarters in Camp Dangwa in La Trinidad, Benguet, as well as private security firms here, place the increase in security industry demand for Baguio, the Cordillera and Northern Luzon, at 150 percent to 300 percent from April to June.

The police source said the volume could not be accounted for at press time because major corporate security contracts were taken by elements of different police branches in the localities.

"More often than not, companies now hire bodyguards with their own weapons so they commonly do their own recruitment and do not use security agencies. It is an open secret that government agents moonlight as security specialists. Even police officers. They are commodities in big demand and they charge accordingly. But for the common requirements, there is still a very big demand for security guards," the police source said.

But militiamen or former communist rebels no longer fall into the new industry equation, he added.

Lopez acknowledged rumors that foreign companies had also engaged former members of the Cordillera People's Liberation Army as hired bodyguards.

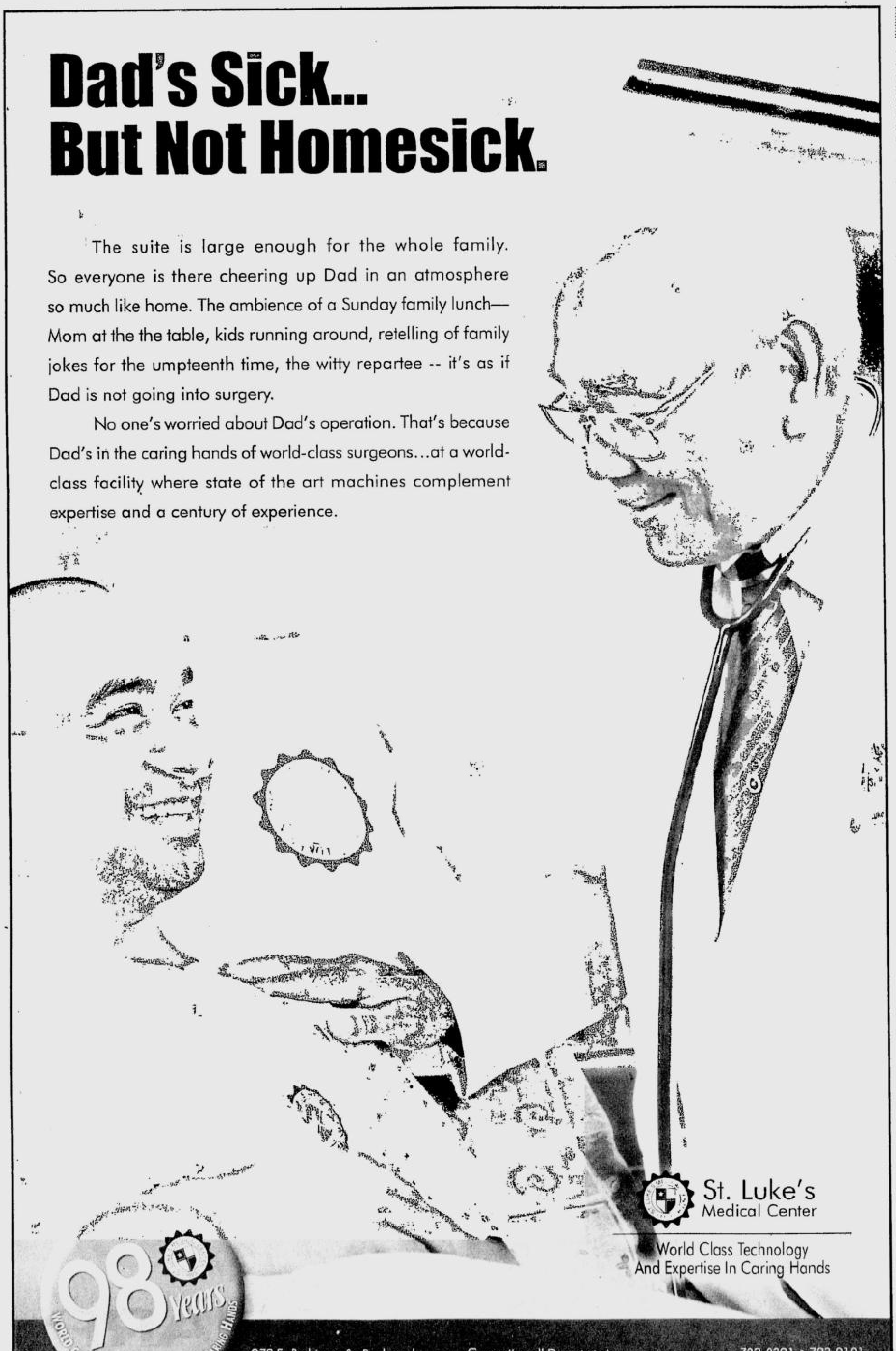
"But these days, clients need bodyguards with more finesse, with the ability to sit in a corporate boardroom. That is why the usual bodyguard duties are no longer in demand. Besides, Republic Act 5487 (the law regulating security agencies) forbids this. Even security guards are limited in their functions. They cannot carry a weapon without a uniform, so they are not effective otherwise as company security," he said in Filipino.

Lopez said even small neighborhoods and villages have taken up collections from residents to hire security guards.

But there is an abnormally high demand now for "executive security" or bodyguards with paramilitary training in urban combat and who are trained to blend well in the corporate world, he said.

"Usually security groups monitor where the executives and VIPs relax, so we include vacation areas like Baguio. But the most vulnerable regions are usually the less inhabited ones, the backwoods, not the urban centers," Lopez said.

"We think the companies need the security industry now because it calms down investors. We know how even the victims mistrust the police, so it is important that another layer of security is offered to them to safeguard our economy," he said.



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ROUNDUP

Basilan gets 8 projects

DAVAO CITY—President Macapagal-Arroyo on Monday awarded eight projects under the Special Zone of Peace and Development Social Fund (Szopad) in Basilan. The projects involved roads, schools and *madrasah* buildings, irrigation, water supply, post-harvest, sanitation and health facilities for Sumisip, Tipo-Tipo, Lantawan and Maluso towns and Isabela City. Six other projects will be given to communities in Sulu and another to Tawi-Tawi. The projects amounted to more than P13 million. *Joselle Badilla, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Fire razes school building

COTABATO CITY—A fire razed a building of the Parang Central Elementary School and the house of an education official in Parang, Maguindanao, on Friday. Police said no one was hurt in the 3:45 a.m. fire that destroyed the school library, its record section and other offices, including an adjacent structure where Maguindanao district supervisor Guianaid Mantawil and his family reside. Water dealers and residents helped put off the fire, Parang Councilor Gaudencio Teves said. Fire marshal Manuel Biliones said they failed to respond because no fire truck was available.

Charlie C. Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau

4 Indonesians nabbed

DAVAO CITY—Police nabbed four Indonesians, including a ship captain, while reportedly looking for "good time" at the Daliao Fish Port in Toril here Wednesday night. Chief Insp. Jose Carumba, Toril police chief, identified the foreigners as ship captain Feby Sorongan, Samsi Mudiong, Herman Oroh and Rabin Bomurong. Carumba said the foreigners failed to present shore passes and passports.

Anthony S. Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Kidnappers free manager

CAMP GEN. ALEJO SANTOS, Bulacan—A warehouse manager was freed by his kidnappers on June 17, two weeks after he was seized from his house in Plaridel town, police said. Miguel Siscar, 51, warehouse manager of Gas Intersales, was released in Calumpit town after his family gave his captors P500,000 in Barangay Mambog, Malolos, police said. The victim's company distributes Unilever products.

Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Historic area reforested

SAN MIGUEL, Bulacan—Provincial officials and residents started reforesting a 30-hectare area at the historic Biak-na-Bato Shrine here to commemorate the Environment Month. Gov. Josefina de la Cruz said the provincial government has signed an agreement with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to plant trees near the Madlum Cave in the shrine. Pupils in the province's public and private elementary schools are tasked to plant 10,000 *molave* seedlings in the area.

Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Visayas and Mindanao including Palawan will be mostly cloudy with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila Hi 34° Lo 25°	Baguio Hi 24° Lo 16°	Tuguegarao Hi 33° Lo 22°	Laoag Hi 32° Lo 25°
Clark Zone Hi 32° Lo 24°	Tagaytay Hi 32° Lo 23°	Legazpi Hi 32° Lo 25°	Calapan Hi 34° Lo 25°
Bacolod Hi 32° Lo 25°	Roxas Hi 32° Lo 25°	Cebu Hi 32° Lo 25°	Tacloban Hi 33° Lo 25°
Gen. Santos Hi 33° Lo 24°	Zamboanga Hi 32° Lo 25°	Cagayan de Oro Hi 32° Lo 24°	Davao Hi 32° Lo 25°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research/06/25/01

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pdiminda@dv.weblinq.com

6 NPA rebs slain in Bohol

TAGBILARAN CITY—Six suspected rebels, including two women, were killed in an encounter with government troops at about 5:20 p.m. Saturday in Barangay Burgos, Talibon town, 104 km north of this city.

The bodies of the fatalities, all said to be in their 20s, were brought to the town proper of Talibon.

Authorities said those killed could be members of the New People's Army Northern Bohol Command.

The municipal health officer was set to perform an autopsy on the bodies while the municipal government would take care of the cost of preserving the bodies until these are claimed by relatives, according to Supt. Lani-o Nerez, Bohol police director.

Burgos, an inland village along the boundary of Talibon and Getafe towns, has long been suspected of being a rebel refuge. Some of the wounded rebels fleeing from a heavy encounter in Trinidad town in July last year retreated to Burgos, military sources said.

No casualties were reported on the government side in Saturday's encounter.

Reports received by Camp Dagohoy, provincial police headquarters, said a joint team from the Army's Special Forces Company and the Talibon police went to Burgos after receiving reports of a heavy concentration of armed men.

Maj. Michael Manquiquis, spokesman of the Visayas Command based in Cebu, said the military had also received a report that rebels were collecting food and "revolutionary taxes" from the villagers.

The team of 20 soldiers and policemen, led by Capt. Apollo Lamaton, head of the Army's 3rd Special Forces Company, was approaching a cluster of houses in the village when they were fired upon by armed men who were inside one of the houses, Manquiquis said.

Based on the account of villagers, the suspected rebels, numbering about 15 and led by a "Ka Jessie," were frequent visitors of Burgos, Manquiquis said.

The battle lasted almost two hours, the police report said.

Manquiquis said the team recovered six M-16 rifles, one M-14 rifle, one M-203 rifle, one Ingram machine pistol, one Thompson grease gun and one grenade. *Chito A. Fuentes and Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau*

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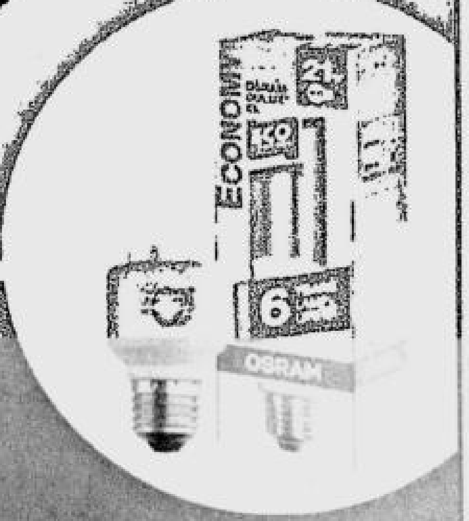

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Team Belgosa, composed of Belgosa Media Systems Inc (BMS), Belgosa Bookstores Inc (BBI), Belgosa Publishing Inc (BPI), Active Chess Center of Asia (ACCA), Quick Red Fox—Editorial, Design and Layout (QRF-EDL), and Bato Balani Foundation Inc (BBFI) awards loyalty recognition to 14 of its employees who have stayed with the company and continuously share their talents and skills in the fullfillment of the company's vision. The simple awarding ceremony was held during the team-building activity.

Marvin "Marvs" T. Caro
Desktop Coordinator, QRF-EDL
13 years

Mary Jane "Margie" L. Quirim
Manager, BBFI
12 years

Federico "Bong" P. dela Cruz Jr
Manager, BBI
12 years

Jerome M. Feliciano
Sales Manager, BMS
9 years

Manolito "Toto" M. Ferrer
Managing Editor, ACCA
7 years

Maribel "Belle" D. Adavan
Accountant, BMS
7 years

Edwin "Weng" C. Abaya
Web Research and Database Coordinator, BMS
6 years

Ruel P. Canillo
Desktop Operator, QRF-EDL
6 years

Marissa "Mariz" Q. Prado
Accountant, BMS
6 years

Marivic "Mari" S. Leechiu
Field Supervisor, BBI
6 years

Ruel A. Payumo
Delivery Assistant, BBI
6 years

Ramon "Mon" L. Cruz
Account Executive, BPI
5 years

Luzviminda "Luz" B. Lucero
Territory Sales Specialist, BBI
5 years

Dioscora "Cora" F. Delopiere
Territory Sales Specialist, BBI
5 years

Officers and staff of Team Belgosa during their team-building activity held at the El Capitan Beach Resort, San Luis Batangas.

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PET PLANS HONG KONG HOLIDAY!

From May 27 to 29, over 400 business partners descended upon Hong Kong for three full days of shopping, sightseeing and food-tripping. The Marco Polo Prince & Hong Kong hotels were full to the brim with delegates, who aside from shopping, took in the sights of Victoria Peak, Szhenzen, Repulse Bay and Ocean Park.

Message From the President

Congratulations to all our delegates to this year's National Sales Convention!

Our annual sales convention is our way of thanking our business partners who have contributed to our success during the previous year and we left no stone unturned to make it fun-filled, fulfilling and exciting for our top producing business partners.

Thus, despite the economic crunch, we pushed through with bringing close to 400 business partners to Hong Kong. And why not? Their efforts contributed to our 38 percent growth in sales last year.

I particularly wish to extend my warmest congratulations to the winners – the Lorenzo M. Tañada awardees and the recipients of the special awards. You are the best among the best.

More power to all of you!

ADRIAN V. OCAMPO

VICTORIA PEAK

CONGRATULATIONS DELEGATES
PLANS
HONGKONG

Left: Delegates pose for a souvenir photo with the majestic Hong Kong harbor and skyscrapers as backdrop. ***Below:*** Davao business partners at Victoria Peak. ***Bottom:*** Tired but still all smiles are business partners in front of The Peak Tower.

CONGRATULATIONS DELEGATES
7th National Sales Convention
in HONGKONG
Harbour City, Kowloon Hongkong

WINDOWS OF THE WORLD (CHINA)

Business Partners with the "Niagara Falls" as backdrop. *Above:* With Executive Vice President Larry T. Ocampo at the entrance to "Windows of the World". *Left:* Relaxing aboard the train at "Windows of the World".

ARRIVAL

Business partners from Cebu at the arrival area of Hong Kong's Chep Lap Kok airport.

Western Mindanao business partners take a break from retrieving their luggage for a souvenir shot.

A veritable sea of Hong Kong business partners exit the airport looking forward to three fun-filled days in the crown colony.

TOP HONG KONG BPs HONORED

Hong Kong's top business partners were honored by the board of directors and officers during the "Fellowship Night with HK Partners" held last May 27, 2001 at the Marco Polo Prince Hotel in Hong Kong. Rosevilla Galope, Regional Business Operations Head (RBOH), led the HK business partners. Among the board of directors present were chaiman Roberto R. Romulo, Vice Chaiman Joseph Delano M. Bernardo, President Adrian V. Ocampo, Treasurer Enrique M. Herbosa, Investment Committee Chairman Federico C. Gonzalez, Eduardo delos Angeles, Millette T. Ocampo and Lorenzo T. Ocampo.

REPULSE BAY

CONGRATULATIONS DELEGATES
HONGKONG

CONGRATULATIONS DELEGATES
PET PLANS
7th National Sales Convention
in HONGKONG
Harbour City, Kowloon Hongkong May 24-28, 2001

CONGRATULATIONS DELEGATES
HONGKONG

Delegates have their picture taken with the Buddhas at Hong Kong's famous Repulse Bay.

THE BIG PICTURE. Part of the delegation, along with the Steering Committee headed by outgoing chairman FVP Noelito R. Trinidad, at the train station en route to Szhenzen China.

2001 NATIONAL SALES CONVENTION

TOP PRODUCERS

BUSINESS CONSULTANT (BC) CATEGORY

DIONETO MESUELO
Central Luzon
Top BC
Lorenzo M. Tañada Awardee

Rolando A. Dating
Bicol
1st Runner-up

Rosalia L. Lorenzo
NCR
2nd Runner-up

Concepcion B. Pineda
Eastern Visayas
3rd Runner-up

Lucia D. Mamaril
Southern Mindanao
4th Runner-up

Fulgencio Torres
Southern Luzon
5th Runner-up

Mary Ann R. Modelo
Northern Mindanao
6th Runner-up

Roxanne T. Tan
Central Visayas
7th Runner-up

Concordia S. Europa
Western Mindanao
8th Runner-up

Darleen P. Balingit
Central Luzon
9th Runner-up

Evelyn P. Lansangan
Central Luzon
10th Runner-up

Nelia P. Agdon
Western Mindanao
11th Runner-up

Delia V. Gimeno
Southern Luzon
12th Runner-up

Alexander E. Yabut
Central Luzon
13th Runner-up

Gertrudes S. Canono
Central Luzon
14th Runner-up

BUSINESS GROUP MANAGER (BGM) CATEGORY

BERNARDITA MAGTANONG
Central Luzon
Top BGM
Lorenzo M. Tañada Awardee

Felino F. Briones
Western Mindanao
1st Runner-up

Myrna Calingo
Northeast Luzon
2nd Runner-up

Manuel T. Corregidor Jr.
Eastern Visayas
3rd Runner-up

Leslie I. Ocampo
Central Luzon
4th Runner-up

Flordelis D. Lasam
Bicol
5th Runner-up

Victor C. Lansangan
Central Luzon
6th Runner-up

Debbie Lyn D. Serrano
Southern Luzon
7th Runner-up

Glicerio L. Jawod
Central Mindanao
8th Runner-up

Daisy S. Roncal
NCR
9th Runner-up

Nora Pongco
Central Luzon
10th Runner-up

Russell Andrei N. Calara
Central Luzon
11h Runner-up

BUSINESS DISTRICT MANAGER (BDM) CATEGORY

CORAZON L. TAMAYO
Central Luzon
Top BDM
Lorenzo M. Tañada Awardee

Ayleen M. Guiao
Central Luzon
1st Runner-up

Ricardo P. Sanchez
Eastern Visayas
2nd Runner-up

Joan Rachelle A. Casal
Southern Mindanao
3rd Runner-up

Estrella C. Monarca
Western Mindanao
4th Runner-up

REGIONAL BUSINESS OPERATIONS HEAD (RBOH) CATEGORY

ANIANA B. BRIONES
Western Mindanao
Top RBOH
Lorenzo M. Tañada Awardee

Adelfa T. Banal
Central Luzon
1st Runner-up

Reynaldo C. Casal
Southern Mindanao
2nd Runner-up

Severino B. Guiao Jr.
Central Luzon
3rd Runner-up

Roger D. Agdon
Western Mindanao
4th Runner-up

TERRITORIAL BUSINESS OPERATIONS HEAD (TBOH) CATEGORY

ROMEO C. BANAL
Central Luzon
Top TBOH
Lorenzo M. Tañada Awardee

Eleanor M. Ebron
Southern Luzon
1st Runner-up

Lea C. Alagar
Western Mindanao
2nd Runner-up

SPECIAL AWARDEES

Aniana B. Briones
Western Mindanao
Most Number of
Delegates by an RBOH

Reynaldo C. Casal
Southern Mindanao
Most Number of
Plans Sold by an RBOH

Aniana B. Briones
Western Mindanao
Highest TCBI for the
Year by an RBOH

Concepcion B. Pineda
Eastern Visayas
Highest ICBI for a
month by a BC

Arlene L. Cabigas
Northern Mindanao
Most No. of
Recruits by an RBOH

SANTIAGO CITY
Most Number
of Recruits
by a Business Center

ANGELES CITY
Most Number
of Delegates
by a Business Center

Lino I. Sumaoang
Central Mindanao
Most Number of
Recruits by a BDM

Lucia L. Sumaoang
Central Mindanao
Most Number of
Recruits by a BGM

CAGAYAN DE ORO
Most Number
of Plans Sold
by a Business Center

CEBU HOLDINGS
Highest TCBI
for the Year
by a Business Center

ROOKIE BUSINESS CONSULTANTS OF THE YEAR

Justino G. Duay
Northern Mindanao

Concordia S. Europa
Western Mindanao

BUSINESS PARTNERSHIP EXCELLENCE AWARDS FOR BDM

Estrella C. Monarca
Western Mindanao

Felino Briones
Western Mindanao

ELITE EARLY BIRD AWARDEES

Jesusa S. Bretania
Western Mindanao

Vida T. Amores
Central Visayas

Fulgencio Torres
Southern Luzon

Cornelio B. Ereño Jr.
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Melania H. Wong
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Mayon Volcano erupts

(From page A1)

would mean "bits and pieces of lava ejected possibly up to 20 kilometers from the summit."

These materials, Punongbayan said, "would come back and roll down as bits and pieces of lava . . . still remaining hot and rolling downslope at the rate of 90-100 kilometers per hour with temperatures of 800-900 degrees Celsius."

Legazpi and nearby areas would be at risk, he said, adding that the eruption could "last for one or two weeks."

The National Disaster Coordinating Council said the previously delineated 7-kilometer radius Extended Danger Zone in the southeast sector of the volcano had been extended to an 8-kilometer radius.

"Areas within the declared danger zones should be vacated at all times due to possible occurrence of the pyroclastic flows and associated explosions," the NDCC said in a report.

Cedric Daep, Provincial Disaster Management Office chief, said that as of 5 p.m. yesterday, 1,870 families or 11,156 persons from Barangays Mabinit, Bonga, Matanag, Buyuan and Padang in Legazpi had been evacuated to three government school buildings.

About half a million people live in Legazpi and several other towns around Mayon, a cone-shaped mountain and popular tourist destination that has erupted 49 times in 400 years.

The most destructive eruption was in 1814, when 1,200 people were killed and an entire town was buried in volcanic mud.

Non-stop emission

"The emission of ash and lava was almost non-stop," Ed Laguerta, resident volcanologist who heads a team monitoring the volcano, said in Filipino.

A bigger explosion occurred at 2:50 p.m., sending pyroclastic materials downslope in several directions, some of which branched out to other directions, and much bigger cauliflower-shaped ash columns.

The superheated volcanic materials, including boulders, went down beyond Balagbag na Bulod, fronting Matanag, which authorities said would endanger residents nearby.

This prompted the Phivolcs to extend the radius of the danger zone to 8 kilometers.

Ash and sand reportedly showered on the towns of Guinobatan, Camalig and Ligao to the south.

Local television showed sleepless residents, many of them women carrying babies, clambering aboard flatbed trucks before dawn as molten lava fragments created a fiery fountain above the crater.

Residents said a loud explosion shook Mayon around 12:30 p.m., following an abrupt increase in restiveness from Saturday night to dawn yesterday.

A series of strong explosions sent a 5-kilometer high ash column into the sky and showered villages in six towns of Albay's third district with gritty debris.

Half an inch of ashfall covered Guinobatan town at the western side of the volcano.

Motorists in some areas had to turn on headlights to see the road.

"*Parang eroplanong malapit nang mag-take off. Halos parang malakas na kulog ito* (It sounded like an airplane ready to take off. It was almost like a loud thunder)," described Marcelo Navares, a resident of Camalig.

Antonio Arispe of the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration, said wind direction was unpredictable, sending fears among residents in other areas that ash might also fall on their houses.

Biggest so far

Yesterday's explosion, described by Phivolcs as "vulcanian" in character, was the biggest so far since Mayon showed signs of abnormalities early this year.

For the past weeks, Mayon had puzzled volcanologists and disaster officials after showing signs of fickleness.

On Thursday, it started to spew lava reaching 1.5 kilometers down its slope at the southeastern side, prompting scientists to meet and decide whether to raise the alert level from 3 to 5.

On Saturday evening, however, thousands of villagers left their homes immediately, fearing the fountain of lava that shot up about 7 p.m., which indicated that a hazardous eruption could take place anytime.

The sight meant that the lava came from beneath the volcano, unlike during past days when the lava flows came from the surface dome that had accumulated during past eruptions.

TONY MACASINAG

RESIDENTS of Barangay Matanag in Legazpi City are evacuated to government shelters following Mayon Volcano's eruption on Sunday.

Evacuation

Chief Supt. Robert Delfin, Bicol police director and Regional Disaster Coordinating Council chair, immediately alerted police field commanders to make available all vehicles and other facilities, including manpower, for emergencies.

Col. Jose Broso of the Civil Relations Office of the Philippine Army said Task Force Mayon headed by Col. Dante Bonifacio had difficulty providing shelter to some 6,300 people from the high-risk villages

Designated evacuation camps in schools could not readily be opened because it was a weekend.

Fearing for their lives, even the residents outside the permanent and the extended danger zones, particularly those affected by the ashfalls, fled and sought shelter from their relatives on safe grounds.

Gov. Al Francis C. Bichara said he would ask the provincial board today to declare a state of calamity in Albay.

Vehicles of the Task Force Mayon and private entities like those of the Legazpi Commercial Center and the Cabigao weather rescue mission helped transport evacuees.

In Manila, the Red Cross and the civil defense office prepared to rush food, clothing, blankets and supplies to this city's evacuation centers, according to Red Cross spokesperson Domingo Dorado. ***With reports from Carlito Pablo and AFP***

Tales of terror, woes also explode

(From page A1)

They have nothing to look forward to in the near future, they said, as ashes and other pyroclastic materials completely buried their crops.

Adela Bellen, 60, a farmer of Barangay Magapo, this city, was thankful to God for saving her life, but she wished that she had the power to see beyond her time.

"Had I known this beforehand, I could have saved my tomato crops from complete destruction," Bellen said, referring to her less than a half-hectare of tomato and cabbage field ready for harvest at the northern slope of Mayon.

The plantation is now buried under a foot of hot sulfuric ash.

"This looks to me as the most terrifying eruption I have ever experienced," Bellen said. She said she had kept vigil listening for news about the volcano's behavior over her portable transistor radio.

Bellen and some 27,000 other farming residents inside the government-declared danger zone made frantic dashes to safety on Saturday night.

Mila Bolilan, 28, who is also from Magapo, said she quickly grabbed whatever belongings she could reach. She said she was still wondering how she had managed to carry her three children, aged seven, four and one.

She said she was struck by numbing terror when she saw the huge fountain of fire, accompanied by rains of scalding mud and terrifying rumble at about 7 p.m. on Saturday.

"After recovering my wits a few moments after, I had nothing in mind but the safety of my children," Bolilan said.

She said she was about 3 kilometers from the crater when it happened.

Except for slight cuts and bloody knees and elbows, Bolilan and her brood were all right. She considered her efforts a "superhuman feat" and a miracle.

They are now safely settled in a classroom with several hundred other families from neighboring villages at the San Antonio Elementary School here, sharing meals of cold rice and leftovers from the previous night's supper.

Even officials of the Albay Provincial Disaster Coordinating Council (PDCC) expressed surprise over the magnitude of the latest eruption. But they have proven again that they are equal to the challenge.

So far, no fatality has been reported.

In February 1993, 74 people were killed instantly when super-hot pyroclastic materials rained down Legazpi City from Mayon's crater. Several dozen others remained missing.

Still more gruesome was the death of some 2,000 people of Cagsawa in Daraga town, who were buried alive while seeking refuge in a church in 1814.

Present and future

Residents of Magapo and 39 other villages in Albay said that unless the government acted on time, they would be facing starvation following the destruction of their crops and houses.

Herminio Briagas, Magapo village chief, said the evacuees were looking forward to partaking of sardines and noodles day and night for the next month or two at the evacuation centers.

Nothing could be salvaged from their fields of tomatoes, cabbages, papayas and bananas after their farms were buried under a foot of volcanic ash, Briagas said.

"If the ashfall continues in the next few days, it will take at least one year for us to recover our sole source of livelihood," he said.

But harder times loomed over, with prices of fertilizers and pesticides going beyond their reach. The ruined crops were not covered by crop insurance.

They could not hope for government aid for farmers like them. Their wells and springs have been heavily destroyed and alternative sources of irrigation have not yet been found.

And they have nothing to live on during the emergency, much less money to rehabilitate their farms.

Alert raised over Erap arraignment

(From page A1)

court premises.

But Saguisag said the Estrada camp's position would likely be taken up today in a closed session with Sandiganbayan justices of the third division when they meet to discuss the "ground rules" of the trial.

President Macapagal-Arroyo has warned that pro-Estrada forces are again plotting huge street demonstrations starting on Tuesday in the hope of destabilizing her government and goading the military to rise up against her.

Calling their petition for a hospital trial a matter of "national security," police officials have argued that the trial should be held at the hospital's gym, where they said it would be easier to protect the ousted leader.

As early as two weeks ago, a "hospital trial" for the Estradas was suggested, surprisingly, by leaders of Kompil 2, the civil society umbrella group that pushed for his ouster during Edsa II.

Like the PNP, Kompil 2 cited the high security risks involved in transporting the Estradas to the court and back.

On Friday, Ms Macapagal assured the public that her administration was in control despite the alleged threats from undisclosed groups.

"We civilians, businessmen, ordinary citizens can continue with 'business as usual' even with this threat because we trust our soldiers and our police will do their job," she said over the weekend.

Not guilty plea

Estrada is expected to plead not guilty to plunder, a crime punishable by death, as well as to the lesser charges of perjury and illegal use of an alias.

The Sandiganbayan's third division is hearing the cases of plunder and illegal use of an alias, while the perjury case has been raffled off to the first division.

On May 1, about 50,000 Estrada supporters marched on Malacañang Palace before dawn to protest his arrest. Ms Macapagal called the march a plot to topple her government and install a civilian-military junta, and declared a state of rebellion in Metro Manila.

Four people were killed and more than 100 arrested, including outgoing Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile.

The President has since adopted a more conciliatory tone toward Estrada supporters. The anti-graft court allowed Estrada to stay in the hospital instead of a special prison home in Laguna, and the justice department is mulling over the dropping of rebellion charges against all those arrested.

Though the maximum penalty for plunder is death, Ms Macapagal commuted the sentences on at least seven death row convicts when it came time for them to be taken to the lethal injection chamber. ***Reports from AFP and Volt Contreras***

Toilet humor in commercial irks officials

(From page A1)

but not everyone appreciates the toilet humor.

Members of the General Santos City council have found the jingle offensive enough to air a formal complaint seeking to get the commercial off the air.

"I consider this very, very offensive," Councilor Franklin Gacal Jr. told a local radio station as he called for "action from concerned agencies."

Gacal sponsored a resolution declaring the advertisement "very offensive, insulting and degrading to Filipino women."

In the resolution, the council requests the national advertisement board and the Kapisanan ng mga Brodkaster ng Pilipinas to stop the airing of the commercial.

It also asks all business establishments in General Santos City "to immediately cease and desist from selling Joy bathroom tissue."

The commercial that started all the fuss shows a woman alighting from a bus, running to a rice field and squatting to answer the call of nature, followed by the jingle.

"*Kataw-anan* (funny)" was how a young girl reacted to the ad, when asked what she thought of it.

But Gacal disagrees. "I don't find it funny," he said. "It is really degrading to Filipino women."

According to him, the jingle suggests that when women run out of tissue paper, they should just use the paddies.

One Tagalog-English dictionary translates "*pilapil*" as a "low bank of earth or small dike as in rice fields."

Ouch.

Gov't is now better prepared to crush plotters

(From page A1)

tempting military officers to mutiny against the government.

Government intelligence dossiers of the May 1 rebellion are being reviewed. In the intelligence game, it is normal for misleading information to be planted in the intelligence pipelines.

But this time, the government is better prepared to cope with another attack, having learned from its mistakes and paying a heavy price for its complacency.

If there's a destabilization plot, the question is whether a rebellion of the scale of May 1 could be mounted again this week.

The May 1 attack was fueled by a configuration of incendiary events triggered by Estrada's arrest. Then came escalating protest rallies in which the masses were incited to rebellion by inflammatory rhetoric for five days, the Puwersa ng Masa's *miting de avance* in which opposition rabble-rousers fanned the crowds to mob fury while trying to advance their senatorial chances, and the mobilizing of the poor either through inflaming their social grievances, trucking them to Edsa, distributing drugs, or paying them.

These elements have to be reassembled again in order for the so-called "May 1 Mayhem" to be replicated. Not all elements, however, are present to fuel a new rebellion.

Estrada's arraignment could be a trigger. The problem is that Estrada's arrest and his treatment in detention like any other felon have lost shock effect.

It had a shock effect in April when the arrest was a novelty and political passions were running high, no doubt inflamed by opposition rhetoric to gain political mileage.

This time around, it's the Sandiganbayan that will decide on the date of arraignment of Estrada and his son Jinggoy, and on their never-ending petitions for house arrest, resthouse arrest, hospital arrest or variations thereof—all intended to give Estrada special treatment, a cut above the rest of the citizens.

Hard to demonize

We are now talking about a judicial process taking its course. It's hard to demonize a process.

In the May 1 rebellion, the fury was directed at the Macapagal administration because it was perceived as the one behind Estrada's arrest.

The arrest was seen as a vindictive act, although there was a fundamental reason for filing the plunder charges—the accountability of presidents for abuse of power.

I don't agree with the assessment that it was the publication of the "mug shots" of Estrada that incited the hordes to a violent rampage.

The truth is that the Philippine National Police had strict orders not to take mug shots and not to release photographs to the press.

But some policemen, with no nobler motive than to make money, sold the photos to the media. It did not take the mug shots to spark a forest fire.

The responsibility lay in the efforts by the Estrada followers to agitate the crowd into rebellion. The mug shot explanation was offered to shift the blame away from the political agitators and their coup-happy conspirators.

There's no more *miting de avance* to act as furnace for inciting rebellion. In fact, the administration has shown conciliatory gestures and has bent over backwards to accommodate the Estradas' capricious demands.

Unreasonable

The President's posture of reconciliation and the Sandiganbayan's leniency have been abused and seen as a sign of weakness. It invited more unreasonable demands.

Outgoing Mayor Jinggoy Estrada was given a five-day furlough from detention and was allowed to clear his tables at the San Juan municipal hall.

But he broke the rules by going back to his Greenhills house, by visiting his grandmother and by laying a wreath at the town's Rizal monument.

No matter that these acts were well intended, they made a mockery of the law and the judge sternly cancelled Jinggoy's privileges.

In this game of testing the limits of the law, the important point to consider is that the Estradas are betraying the mentality that because they were elected, their electoral mandate gave them the right to break the law and be above it.

This mentality was the guiding norm of Estrada's exercise of power. You give them a finger, they will snap the whole arm. Both the rich and poor should realize this.

The arraignment date comes at a point when Ms Macapagal is vulnerable to destabilization acts. The new coup plotters know this.

The government is fighting many battles on several fronts. It is confronted with the hostage-taking of the Abu Sayyaf, the rise of kidnappings and holdups in Metro Manila, and the assassinations staged by the New People's Army—all at the same time.

The issue raised by coup plotters is "a breakdown of law and order," implying incapacity the of the administration to govern.

This is a false issue. Statistical records show that the incidence of kidnappings and holdups is no worse than it was at a similar period during the last year of Estrada's presidency. Estrada had to fight the Moro Islamic Liberation Front and the Abu Sayyaf on two fronts.

2 questions

The question is: Will this disarray be strong enough to mobilize another May 1 rebellion and for the military to mutiny or withdraw support from the government?

This calculation should be considered in any attempt to mount a coup.

Another question: Will a coup be mounted to return Estrada to power or to enable the military or factions in it to grab power?

Twice in 15 years, the military defected from government—in 1986 when there was a mutiny, and in January 2001 when the military leadership walked unarmed to the side of the people during Edsa II.

In both cases, there were profound causes for the rebellion or defection—gross abuse of power by the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos and ousted President Estrada, highlighted by appalling corruption.

The military has to find a strong reason to withdraw support.

Incompetent?

We should therefore ask ourselves honestly: Has this 5-month-old administration committed outrageous venalities or incompetence, such that it deserves to be toppled?

Given the experience of May 1, the government is in a stronger position to disperse crowds, to defend the Palace and to crush a coup than it was on May 1.

The plotters might be overestimating their chances of launching a successful rebellion. They can be deluded by assumptions that the arraignment date may spark another mass mobilization for a rebellion.

The President should speak softly but use the big stick to crush a revolt.

Let the coup plotters try, if they want, but the government is ready this time and the President need not spit out thunder. Draw them into a trap, then crush them.

But a word of caution: A new rebellion might take a new complexion.

It could revive and give impetus to the interventionist mentality, just running underneath the surface, in the military, that if civil governments could not hold the center and control rebellions, the military might as well take power in the name of saving the Republic from disintegrating.

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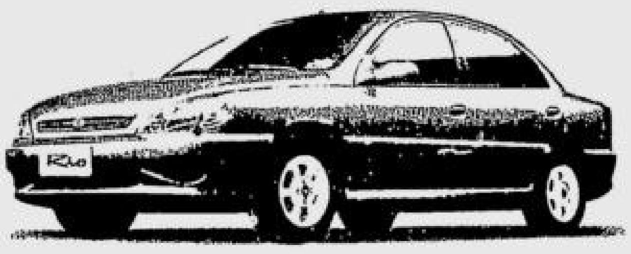

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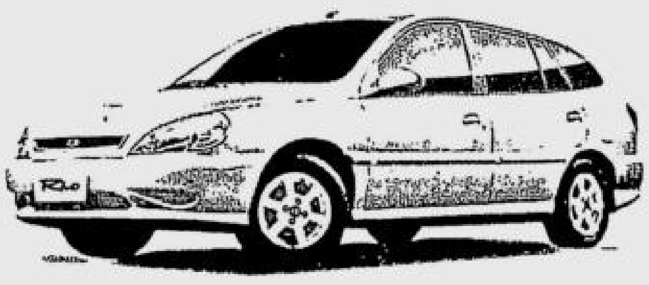
P455,000 SRP

FEATURES	RIO SEDAN	HCTZ	TYCXL	NSFE
Engine Displacement/ Type	1,343 cc/EFI	1,343 cc/EFI	1,296 cc/ carburetor	1,295 cc/ carburetor
Maximum Torque (kg-m @ rpm)	12.1 @ 3,000	12.1 @ 4,700	10.3 @ 4,200	10.3 @ 4,000
Rear Defogger	✓	-	-	-
SRP	P455,000	P489,000	P518,000	P518,000



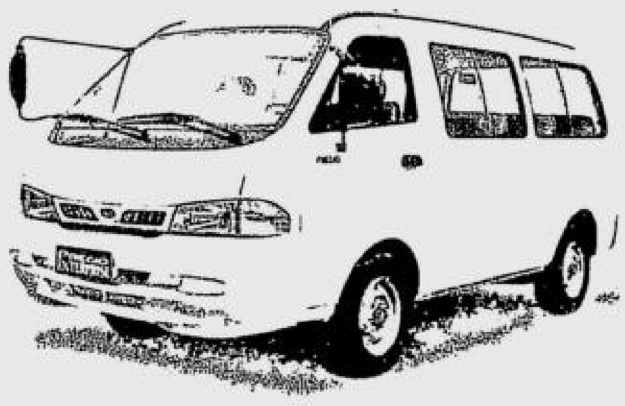
RIO 1.5 HATCHBACK 1500 cc

European design cues with Korean performance soul. 5-door convenience and added cargo space from fold-flat rear seat.

P559,000 MT SRP

FEATURES	RIO HB	HCTZ	MSLC
Engine Displacement/ Type	1,493 cc/EFI 16-valve DOHC	1,493 cc/EFI 16-valve SOHC	1,468 cc/ carbureted 12-valve SOHC
Rear seat - fold-flat type	✓	-	-
Driver-side airbag	✓	-	-
SRP	P559,000	P594,000	P620,000

VANS



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FEATURES	PREGIO RS	TYHACOM	NUVSHTLE
Engine Displacement/ Type	2,665 cc/OHC	2,446 cc/OHC	2,663 cc/OHV
Overall width (mm)	1,810	1,690	1,690
Suspension type Front	Double wishbone/ coil spring	Double wishbone/ torsion bar	Double wishbone/ torsion bar
Rear	5-link/coil spring	Rigid axle/leaf spring	Rigid axle/leaf spring
SRP	P595,000	P820,000	P750,000

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P680,000 MT SRP
P715,000 AT SRP

FEATURES	PREGIO FEST	TYHAGL	NUVESPD
Engine Displacement/ Type	2,665 cc/OHC	1,998 cc/OHC	2,663 cc/OHV
Transmission	5 MT/ 4AT	5 MT	5 MT
Suspension type Front	Double Wishbone/ coil spring	Double Wishbone/ torsion bar	Double Wishbone/ torsion bar
Rear	5-link/coil spring	Rigid axle/leaf spring	Rigid axle/leaf spring
Second row seat-rotating 180°	✓	–	–
SRP	P680,000 MT P715,000 AT	P860,000 MT	P780,000 MT

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Engine Displacement/Type	2,665 cc diesel	2,477 cc diesel
Maximum Torque (kg-m @ rpm)	17.5 @ 2,400	15 @ 2,000
Overall length (mm)	4,770	4,100
Overall width (mm)	1,750	1,695
Rear body length (ft)	9.5	8
Chassis payload (kg)	1,220	1,140
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P859,000 MT SRP
P909,000 AT SRP

FEATURES	CARNIVAL	TYHA-GRAN	HYSTARVX
Engine Displacement/ Type	2,902 cc turbo intercooler 16-valve DOHC diesel	2,985 cc OHC diesel	2,476 cc turbo intercooler diesel
Maximum Output (PS @ rpm)	135 @ 3,800	87 @ 4,000	100 @ 3,800
Overall length (mm)	4,930	4,830	4,695
Overall width (mm)	1,895	1,690	1,820
Wheelbase (mm)	2,910	2,590	2,810
Transmission	5 MT/4 AT	5 MT	5 MT/4 AT
Suspension Type			
Front Coil	✓	-	-
Rear Coil	✓	√	√
ABS	✓	-	-
Driver-side airbag	✓	-	-
SRP	P859,000 MT P909,000 AT	P1,080,000	P938,000 MT P978,000 AT

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86TH EDITION

RP Open back to its old home

YOSHIZUMI Kurata, senior executive vice president of Mitsubishi Motors Philippines, turns over to Wack Wack president Ben Abalos the cheque representing his company's sponsorship of the 86th Philippine Open golf championship at the Wack Wack Golf and Country Club on June 28-July 1. Looking on are from left, Mel Dizon, senior VP for marketing, Wack Wack general manager SP Malbarosa and Tony Sisante of the NGAP. Mitsubishi will also provide the hole-in-one prizes for the pro-am and the tournament proper.

By Jong Arcano

THE FRONT and back nines of the fabled Wack Wack Golf and Country Club east course will be reversed for the coming 86th edition of the Philippine Open, ensuring a more exciting homestretch battle for the championship.

GOPEZ

The original Nos. 7, 8 and 9—considered as the one of the toughest stretches in local golf especially from the back tees—will become the closing holes for the Open which returns to its permanent home this week.

The sheer toughness of the eighth hole—a par-3 monster with a cup-like green surrounded by vicious bunkers—hardly gives a player with a two-stroke lead any breathing space.

If and when the race goes all the way to the ninth, that would be another story as an accurate drive is required to get a good angle at the pin placement. In all probability, the approach is a long iron since the fairways softened by recent rains will not yield to bonus rolls.

The Open returns to Wack Wack, 11 years after Filipino hotshot Robert Pactolerin had hoisted the champion's trophy at the greenside of par-4 18th—which will be played as No. 9.

The idea of reversing the nines was broached by organizing committee chair Benny Gopez to Wack Wack management whose president Ben Abalos gave the go-signal after a careful review.

The National Golf Association of the Philippines and Wack Wack will raise the curtains for the grand P9.5 million show starting with Wednesday's pro-am where representatives of sponsoring corporations will play.

A starting roster of 130 pros, 81 of them from foreign land, will dispute the winner's paycheck of P1.5 million in the event which is backed chiefly by Casino Filipino and San Miguel Beer as co-presenters.

The other sponsors are Mitsubishi Motors, Herma Group of Companies, Hope Luxury Cigarette, Hanjin Shipping, Prudentialife Pension Plan, General Milling, Metrobank, Bingo Bonanza, Citra Tollways, Rudy Project, Unilever, Metrobank, Marsman Drysdale, Pyramid Construction, Mizuno, Solahart, Citgo, Wallem Shipping, Executive Golfers Club, The Riviera Golf and Country Club, Philippine Navy, GG&A Club Shares, Electrobus Consolidated, Solahart, Philtec Label, U-Bix, PLDT, Aristocrat Lamps, Pacsports, Café Appassionato, Philippine Army, Philippine Navy Golf Club, Villamor Golf Club, G.E. Management, Marriott Vacation Club, Toyota Motors, Greens Management, Golf Force, First Georgetown Ventures, Nextel and Cinnabon.

Meanwhile, the pro champion of Wednesday's pro-am gets P50,000, the runner-up receives P40,000 and the third placer P30,000. Another P25,000 in cash awaits the pro of the winning team.

Webb still up

WILMINGTON, Delaware—Karrie Webb wound up where she started Saturday, with a three-stroke lead in the LPGA Championship and in perfect position to become the youngest woman to win the career Grand Slam.

The look on her face when she walked off DuPont Country Club with a 1-under 70, however, made it clear that this major is hardly finished.

"I hung in there," the 26-year-old Australian said after finishing at 201. "I've got a long 18 holes to go, and a lot of girls played well today. It's not over." *AP*

Dumandan wins amateur circuit 5th leg at Mimosa

MARVIN Dumandan turned back Jay Bayron in a final-round showdown that was decided only on the closing holes, posting a three-stroke victory in the fifth leg of the Titleist-Footjoy National Amateur Circuit recently at the Mimosa Golf and Country Club in Angeles City.

Dumandan, a native of Apo, Davao, shot a 76 for a 297 aggregate while Bayron, the reigning national caddies champion, failed to keep in step with his 79 and settled for second at 301.

Jong Laput wound up third at 310 in the tourney conducted by the National Golf Association of the Philippines and sponsored by Titleist and Footjoy.

In the closest finish so far in the series, Ruby Chico-Walker rallied from five strokes down then nipped Lucy Landicho in a countback for the ladies crown.

The winners of the 36-hole handicap competitions were Sammy Bugayong in Group I, Richard Umburger in Group II, Apol Ignacio in Group III, Joey Mendez in Group IV and Xandrea Dizon in the ladies category.

Landicho lost her big lead with a struggling 81 and lost out to Walker who had a better back nine output.

Walker, one of the leading candidates for the SEA Games, widened her lead in the circuit with her third win in five legs. Carmelette Villaroman wound up third after a 77 for a 235 total.

The next leg will be played July 17-20 at the Canlubang Golf and Country Club.

Aguinaldo, Villamor bets shine

AGUINALDO put one over the favored teams in Class A while Villamor flexed its muscle in the lower divisions during the recent third leg of the Callaway-sponsored Women's Golf Association of the Philippines (WGAP) Circuit at the Villamor Golf Club course.

Josie Untal amassed 45 points, jungolfer Matet Salivio chipped in 38, Grace Atienza carded 34 and Barbie Cruz added 33 as the Aguinaldo ladies posted 150 to beat Villamor by three in the centerpiece division of the circuit supported by Callaway through Electrobus Consolidated, Inc.

Canlubang, reinforced by former national players Ruby Chico-Walker and Lina de Guzman, could only place third.

The Villamor quartet of Carol Nielsen, Minie Jentes, Flor Schramm and Junko Watanabe aggregated 130 and handily prevailed over Sta. Elena (121) and Canlubang (118).

The host club also clinched Class C through the efforts of Tina Yupangco, Minty Holigores, Mayee Liaw and Baby Golez.

Villamor's C squad had 138 to win over Navy (132) and Riviera (123).

The individual winners were Chia Chu Hung (43) of Villamor in Class A, Tacing Laurel of Canlubang (34) in Class B and Angie Co (38) of Sta. Elena in Class C.

The next leg will be held at Manila Golf.

NBA draft

NBA NOTES

Henry Liao

THE 2001 NBA draft will be held on June 28 (Manila time) at Madison Square Garden in New York.

The Washington Wizards, by virtue of their topping the draft lottery, will choose first overall in the draft. It's not definite whether the Wizards will utilize the pick or just trade it to a lower-drafting club for a proven veteran who can help the downtrodden Atlantic Division outfit immediately.

The last time ownership of the No. 1 overall draft choice changed hands on the even of draft Day came in 1986 when the Philadelphia 76ers sent their top pick to the Cleveland Cavaliers for cash and forward-center Roy Hinson.

The LA Clippers have the next selection after the Wizards at No. 2. Completing the top five were Atlanta (third), Chicago (fourth) and Golden State (fifth).

The rest of the lottery selections (top 13) are: 6-Vancouver, 7-New Jersey, 8-Cleveland, 9-Detroit, 10-Boston, 11-Boston, 12-Seattle and 13-Houston.

The Celtics (Nos. 10, 11 and 21) and the Houston Rockets (Nos. 13, 18 and 23) each have three first-rounders this year. The Minnesota Timberwolves forfeited their first-round choice—which would have been No. 18 overall—as part of the punishment for the illegal Joe Smith singing.

The reigning two-time NBA champion LA Lakers do not have any selections in the draft, losing their first-rounder (in the four-way trade that sent Horace Grant to the Lakers form Seattle) and second-rounder (to San Antonio) in separate trade transactions.

Media 9-ball tourney set

THE MEDIA Sports Club will be holding its "1st 9-Ball Tournament Double Knockout Showdown" on June 27, July 4 and 11 at Rommel's Billiards, Timog Circle, Quezon City.

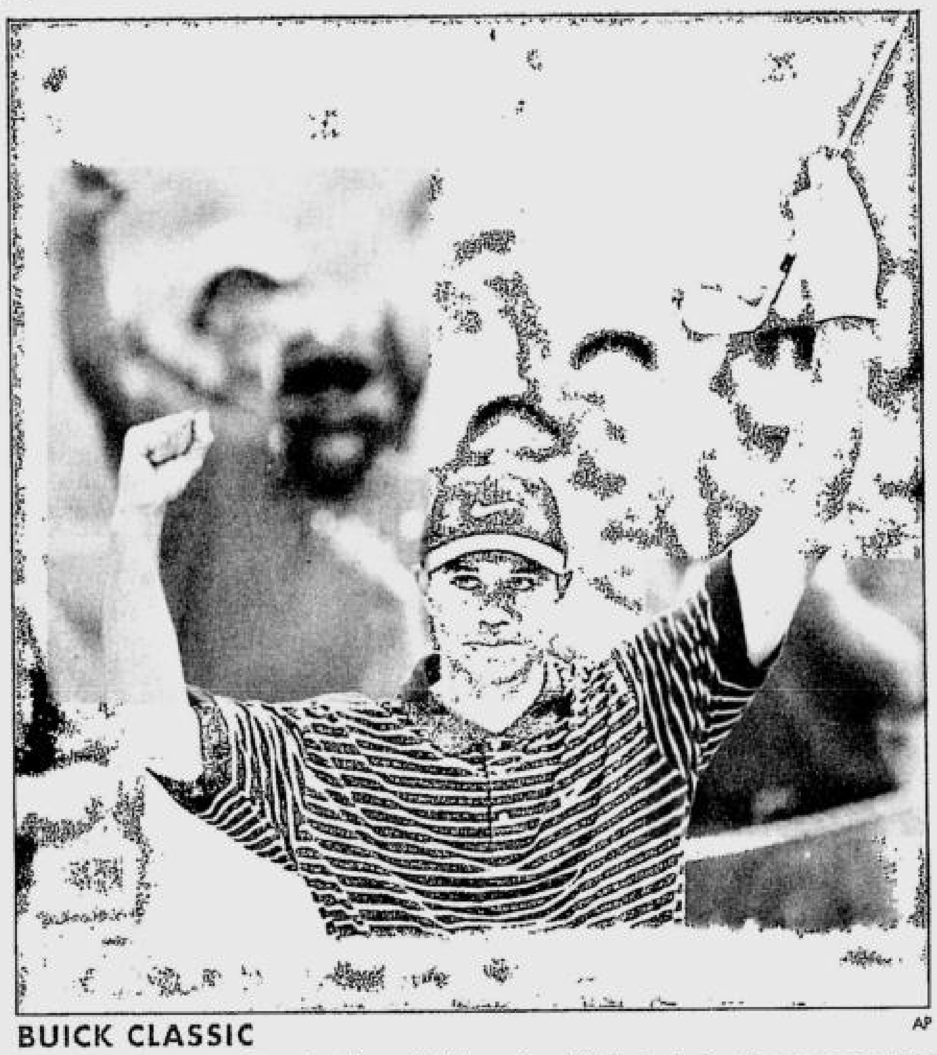
This is in line with MSC's commitment to promote sportsmanship and camaraderie among media entities, namely groups of people currently employed in radio, television or print media.

To participate, one should be a bona fide employee or member of a legitimate media company or press group.

A maximum number of five players per media entity will be allowed. Prizes include a special billiard stick for the top 20 participants, as well as trophy and cash for the top three winners.

The tournament starts at 8 a.m. on June 27 and will be played for three consecutive Wednesdays.

Interested parties may call Fely at 733-8603/0919-554-3141, and Cel or Leth at 309-9029/733-83-10/12.



BUICK CLASSIC AP

Tiger Woods reacts after shooting a birdie on the 16th hole during the second round of the Buick Classic in Harrison, New York. Rain forced the postponement of the third round of the already delayed event Sunday. Sergio Garcia and Scott Hoch both completed their second rounds early Saturday to lead at 7-under 135 before a heavy midday rainstorm filled bunkers with water and left small lakes around many of the lower-lying holes at Westchester Country Club. Woods shot a 5-under-par 66 in his second round Friday to avoid the cut following an opening 75. He was tied for 30th. The final round would be played Monday, weather permitting.

Singapore keglers rule Masters

SINGAPORE bowler Jennifer Tan and former world champion Tom Hahl of Finland, who now carries Singapore's colors, bagged the Masters title Saturday in the Boysen-PBC Open 2001 championships at Green Valley lanes in Pasig City.

Tan came back strong to beat Malaysia's Wendy Chai, 225-214, after a disastrous 159-234 setback in the first game to snatch the ladies' crown and the P60,000 cash prize.

Hahl was in complete command as he demolished Chinese Taipei's Chen Chi Jung, 268-216, in the men's finals to pocket P100,000.

Both Tan and Hahl finished on top of the 16-game eliminations with 3328 and 3486 pins, respectively.

Little-known Filipino youth Frederick Ong of PBAP-Bowlmart proved to be the biggest surprise in the event sponsored by Boysen Paints and PSC and supported by Goldilocks, Filkor, Prima Pasta, Bowlmart, Storm products, The Kegel Co. and Blueskies crackers by finishing third overall, behind Hahl and Chen.

Ong averaged 212 in 16 games to actually finish second to Hahl and ahead of Malaysian Gerald Samuel (3395), comebacking four-time World Cup champion Paeng Nepomuceno (3381) and Chester King (3344) in the eliminations, but he was outgunned by Chen, 236 to 203, in the second shootout match.

Chen's efforts gave him a shot at Hahl for the title.

Chai scored 226 to beat fellow Malaysians Tang Joh Six (191) and Lai Kin Ngoh (179) in the first shootout match, and then carded 214 to knock out Singapore's Yap Seok Kim (188) and Jesmine Ho (179) in the second match.

Irene Benitez turned out to be the best Filipino performer in the ladies' finals, firing 3201 in 16 games to rank eighth, behind Korean Shin Yu Soo (3208) but ahead of fellow RP bowlers Jojo Canare (3184), Cecilia Yap (3171) and Arianne Cerdeña (3169).

If it's any consolation, Benitez, Canare, Yap, Cerdeña and Liza del Rosario (3076) qualified for the RP leg of the Asian Bowling Tour which began yesterday at Pearl Bowling Center in Baclaran.

Aside from Nepomuceno and King, the RP male keglers who earned slots on the Asian Tour are Benny Dytoc, seventh with 3336; RJ Bautista (8th, 3325), CJ Suarez (9th, 3317) and Botchock Rey (10th, 3294).

Red Bull sparkles; Aces fall

GAMES WEDNESDAY
(Philsports)
5:15 p.m. — Mobiline vs Pop Cola
7:30 p.m. — Purefoods vs Shell

By Marc Anthony Reyes

BATANG Red Bull recovered from a mid-game breakdown to pull off a 94-82 victory that put Shell's stint in jeopardy last night in the PBA Commissioner's Cup at the Araneta Coliseum.

Leaning on their big men, the Thunder quickly secured a 15-point lead in the first quarter but allowed the Turbochargers to get back into the game at halftime (46-44).

It proved to be Shell's final stand as Red Bull regained its form and bury the Turbochargers in double-digit leads the rest of the way for a 3-2 record. Shell dropped to 1-4.

Kevin Freeman stood out after being rumored he was going to be replaced, scoring 32 points as Tanduay Gold inflicted Alaska Milk's first defeat after an 87-81 win in the second game. The Rhummasters improved to 2-3, while the Aces fell to 4-1 in a tie with San Miguel Beer.

Shell, which replaced its import Juaquin Hawkins, sputtered on both ends, relying on stringer Art Del Rosario to carry the load underneath the basket.

The replacement, Tremaine Wingfield, was an ineffective as his predecessor, a predicament that predictably influenced the locals who were already missing Benjie Paras and Gerry Esplana due to injuries.

Meanwhile, Eric Menk last night expressed dislike over the prospects of playing as an import for Tanduay Gold.

The suspended Fil-Am said he couldn't picture himself playing as an import and that "I hope it won't come to that point."

Scores:

RED BULL 94 – Harp 20, Lang 19, Raymundo 18, Valenzuela 12, Agustin 10, Miller 4, Pennisi 4, Tugade 2, Villoria 2, Briones 2, Mendoza 1

SHELL 82 – Del Rosario 16, Wingfield 16, Wainwright 12, Marzan 10, Jackson 10, Hrabak 9, Singson 7, Telan 2, Dualan 0, Lim 0.

Quarters: 31-17, 46-44, 70-62, 94-82.

SJ Knights rip Eagles

GAMES WEDNESDAY
San Luis Sports Complex (Sta. Cruz, Laguna)
3:00 p.m.—Socsargen vs San Juan
5:30 p.m.—Cebu vs Laguna

By Roy Luarca

THE ANDOK'S San Juan Knights were in a mood to celebrate their town fiesta last night.

Hounding the Davao Eagles from beginning to end, the Knights posted an easy 122-86 victory in the Metropolitan Basketball Association First Phase at the San Juan Gym.

In duplicating their 140-95 rout of Davao in their first encounter, San Juan climbed to solo third place in the standings at 4-2 and stayed close behind idle frontrunners Negros and Cebuana Lhuillier, both at 5-1.

The Eagles, on the other hand, fell to 0-5 and shared the cellar with first game loser Socsargen Marlins.

It was the Knights' way of atoning for their misdemeanor against the Gems, when they went on a fouling binge, and appeasing their head coach Philip Cezar, who was serving a one-game suspension in the aftermath of that lackluster stand.

Earlier, the FedEx Laguna Lakers wore down the Marlins behind the unstoppable Jeffrey Flowers yesterday and won pulling away, 109-89.

Navyman wins

A NAVYMAN from Guimaras Province topped yesterday's men's division of the Milo Marathon at the CCP Complex.

Rene Herrera, on his first try in the lung-busting 42-kilometer run, negotiated the distance in 2 hours, 41 minutes and 58 seconds to bag the Metro Manila leg of the tournament, tipped to culminate in December.

In shaming seasoned marathoners Rolando Cedullo and Ronald Despi, the 22-year-old Herrera instantly became P30,000 richer and automatically qualified in the finals at the end of the year.

In the women's division, Hazel Madamba shed off her bridesmaid image after finishing a minute clear of her closest pursuer. *June Navarro*

Pasay derby up

BASED on the strong feedback from cockers and breeders in Metro Manila and nearby provinces, the upcoming Pasay City Cockpit 14th Anniversary 5-Cock Derby slated July 19 and 21 can have more than 150 entries.

Pit managers Oscar Gonzales, Eric dela Rosa and Butchoy Olano explained that prospective participants have been calling the PCC office for the last two weeks, signifying their intentions to join.

At stake in the event hosted by the PCC management is P1 million, while entry fee is P15,000.Every participant will get an imported VCD player worth P3,000 while the champions will get a 21- inch color TV each. Runnersiup will get CD player double cassette recorders.

"For the first timers, I would like to remind them that the PCC Anniversary Derby always start at exactly 10 in the morning because of the numerous entries. That's why the submission of weights is strictly one day before the event," Gonzales said.

For reservation of cockhouses, please contact 816-6750,843-1890 and 843-1746.

Dableo ahead

ALREADY assured of a slot for the Asian Continental Chess Championship, NM Ronald Dableo and Fide Master Fernie Donguines agreed to a quiet 15-move draw on Saturday in the penultimate round of the Qualification Tournament held at the Centermall, Greenhills Shopping Center in San Juan.

The draw gave the 12th-seeded Dableo a total of seven points going into the final round of the meet.

Taking steps

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

IT IS important to let the people know where their money is being spent because that is their fundamental right.

In sports for example, the taxpayers are now more sensitive to the country's performance abroad because Philippine sports is not making any headway over the years. But despite the need to improve the sorry situation, nothing much is expected to change as long as those who are in charge of developing sports are the same old bullheaded National Sports Associations officials who have little to show in the way of progress except for the fact that they quarrel a lot and travel very often using public funds.

"That is why it's best to send a compact but competitive delegation to the SEA Games in Kuala Lumpur this Sept. 8-16," said Philippine Sports Commission chair Carlos "Butch" Tuason whose agency provides the funding to the NSAs. "The people are now conscious about the gold medals our athletes would be bringing home since government money is involved. They might not look too kindly if we win few medals despite sending a big contingent."

Last week, the SEA Games Task Force headed by Steve Hontiveros of the Philippine Olympic Committee announced that 278, repeat 278, athletes have already qualified for the KL trip. This bloated list excluded the entries from boxing, wushu, weightlifting, cycling, gymnastics and men's volleyball.

Meanwhile, the PSC's campaign against delinquent NSAs has paid off handsome dividends. Last heard, 14 of some 24 NSAs, led by track and field, have settled their back accounts amounting to P18 million. The PSC also said NSAs which failed to meet the deadline will not be entitled to PSC financial assistance, but funds will be released directly to the athletes particularly to those competing in the SEA Games.

Also, the PSC has embarked on a scouting mission aimed at tapping Filipino-American athletes with medal potentials for the Malaysian bash. Commissioner Richie Garcia said the PSC is likewise conducting a man-to-man approach on the daily monitoring of athletes performance by asking the coaches themselves about their athletes' chances in the SEA Games.

"Talking to the coaches is a more realistic approach," said Garcia, adding that it's better to get feedbacks from the coaches "because NSAs heads will always boast that their athletes can win the gold."

* * *

For inquiries, call fax/phone (044) 933-1214 or EasyCall 141-267284.

New PFF sec gen named

THE Philippine Football Federation has appointed Miguel Villadolid as the new PFF secretary general, replacing the late Christopher Monfort who died in a vehicular accident two weeks ago. Villadolid, 39, a former varsity soccer standout and athletic scholar, was the office manager and committee member of the PFF's Kasibulan Grassroots Development Program prior to his new appointment.

SPORTS

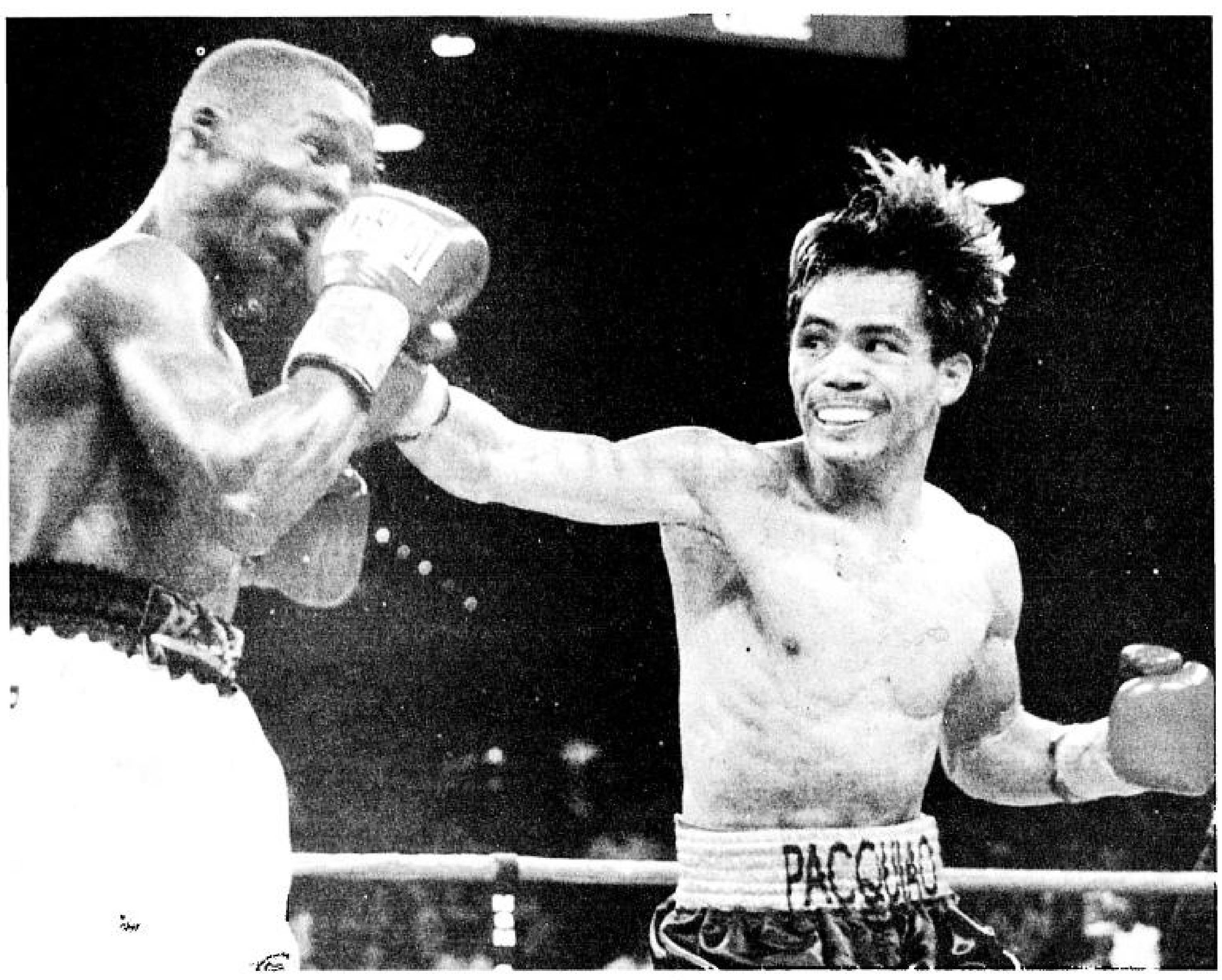
AL S. MENDOZA, Editor ▨ EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA, Assistant Editor

Michael outshines Ralf

NUERBURGRING, Germany—Michael Schumacher restored the family hierarchy in Saturday's qualifying for the European Grand Prix by gaining the pole position over younger brother Ralf. The two brothers will start from the front of the grid for the third time this season and that's the lineup more than 100,000 boisterous German fans have been hoping for in Sunday's 67-lap race. *AP*

Pacquiao captures IBF crown

DL Hoya whips foe, becomes champ again



PACQUIAO (right) jolts Ledwaba with a right to the head. AP

LAS VEGAS, Nevada—Manny Pacquiao of the Philippines stopped South Africa's Lehlohonolo Ledwaba in the sixth round here Saturday to win the International Boxing Federation super bantamweight championship.

Pacquiao, who took the fight on only two week's notice, pounded the champion to the canvas once in round two and twice in round six before referee Joe Cortez stopped the fight 59 seconds into the sixth round.

Pacquiao rose to 32-2 with his 23rd early stoppage, dropping Ledwaba to 33-2 with one drawn. Ledwaba, making only his second United States appearance, had held the title for the past three years.

The challenger was the aggressor from the start. He bloodied Ledwaba's nose in round one, knocked him to the canvas with a straight left 40 seconds into round two and battered him to the brink in the fifth round.

Pacquiao, 24, slammed Ledwaba to the canvas with a solid left early in the sixth round and landed a hard right during a flurry to finish the champion. The Asian fighter landed nearly twice as many punches as Ledwaba.

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday congratulated Pacquiao for a job well done.

The President said the victory of Pacquiao has brought honors not only to himself and his family but also to the entire Filipino nation.

"Manny Pacquiao has a heart of a champion. He has shown us that with determination and sense purpose, the Filipino can soar to greater heights," the President said in a statement.

In saluting Pacquiao, the President added that the Filipino boxer has once against raised the Philippine flag not only within the boxing circle but in the eyes of the world.

In the main bout, Oscar De La Hoya was treated like he was the champion all week long. He finally went out Saturday night and made it official, beating Javier Castillejo of Spain by decision to win the WBC super welterweight title.

De La Hoya's move up to 154 pounds (69 kilograms) was a successful one as he dominated an outclassed Castillejo to become a champion again for the first time since he lost to Felix Trinidad nearly two years ago.

It was the fifth title in as many weight classes for De La Hoya, who went into the fight an overwhelming favorite of both the fans and the oddsmakers despite being the challenger.

He didn't disappoint either, though De La Hoya was unable to put the game champion down until a left hook accomplished the task with five seconds left in the fight.

De La Hoya smiled as Castillejo went down and the crowd at the MGM Grand hotel arena erupted in a frenzy. The champion, bleeding from a cut on his left eye, got up quickly and the bell sounded to end the fight before action resumed. "Some people don't think I have power or stamina but I do," De La Hoya said.

De La Hoya ended up winning a lopsided 12-round decision that was really never in doubt, though Castillejo got his attention at times with some good right hands and landed a left hook that shook De La Hoya with 32 seconds left in the 12th round.

All three judges scored the fight 119-108, giving Castillejo only one round. The Associated Press also had De La Hoya winning by the same score.

De La Hoya, fighting for only the second time since his loss to Shane Mosley last June, had vowed to quit if he lost to the 33-year-old Castillejo, who had rarely fought out of his native Spain.

Instead, he set himself up for possible rematches with Mosley and Trinidad, the two fighters who have defeated him.

Castillejo had made five successful defenses of the 154-pound title, but he was tentative and spent much of the early part of fight backing up against De La Hoya, who landed effectively to the body and head with his left hook.

Castillejo (51-5) fought only in spurts, though he began pressing the attack in the late rounds, only to take a beating from De La Hoya's left hook.

De La Hoya (34-2) was an 8-1 favorite by fight time, and by the middle rounds the only question was whether he had enough power at 154 pounds to stop Castillejo.

He rocked the champion in the early seconds of the opening round with a right hand and shook Castillejo all night with the left hook. But he never really had Castillejo in trouble and never seemed close to putting him down until the final round.

De La Hoya earned $3 million for the fight, but more importantly it gave him a title to chase some much bigger fights against the likes of Trinidad, Mosley and Fernando Vargas.

Three Olympians on the card remained undefeated with easy wins.

Heavyweight Michael Bennett had the easiest time of it, stopping Donald Macon at 41 seconds of the first round to improve to 4-0. Middleweight Jermain Taylor beat Marvin Smith in a four- round decision to remain undefeated in fights, while Jose Navarro won his fifth fight as a pro with a four-round decision over Salvador Rosales in a bantamweight fight. *AFP, AP*

SPORTS ON TV

COMPILED BY LORENZO MANGUIAT

BOXING: Manny Pacquiao vs Lehlo Ledwaba at 5:30 p.m. (r) on IBC 13
TENNIS: Wimbledon Lawn Tennis Championships—Preview at 8 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. (r), Day 1, First Round at 8 p.m. on Star Sports
ATP Tennis Show at 12:30 p.m. (r) on ESPN
MOTOR SPORTS: Race Day—European Grand Prix at 11 a.m. (r) on Star Sports
2001 F1 World Championships—European Grand Prix at 11:45 p.m. (r) on Star Sports
Chequered Flag—European Grand Prix at 2 p.m. (r) on Star Sports
CART Portland 200 at 11 p.m. (r) on ESPN
GOLF: Golfglobe 2001 at 8:30 a.m. (r) on Star Sports
PGA Buick Classic—First Round at 9 a.m. (r), Final Round at 5:30 p.m. on Star Sports

Wind Blown, Hyperbid score

WIND BLOWN: Sandy Javier-bred galloper. FILE PHOTO

BY EDWIN VILLANUEVA

HOT favorite Wind Blown won the featured race with ease and shared the limelight with longshot Hyperbid in the 22nd Gran Copa de Manila Stakes races yesterday at the San Lazaro Hippodrome.

Only a mild threat from Super Sharp came in the way of Wind Blown who topped the Division I contest pulling away.

"*Walang problema. Sobra sya sa grupo* (No problem. He's too much for the field)," said Fernando "Dhunoy" Raquel Jr. after the late afternoon win worth P360,000.

In winning the race also called the Sta. Realty Cup, Wind Blown mirrored the Founders' Cup-Gran Copa double achieved by Charlemagne last year.

It was the fourth major victory this year for Wind Blown, who has now earned P6.7 million.

Super Sharp (JM Ladiana) came in second to 'snare P135,000. Gold Edition (DH Borbe Jr.) was third followed by Project Genesis (JT Zarate) and Materiales Fuertes (PR Dilema).

Bred by sportsman-businessman Sandy Javier, Wind Blown (Hazm-Wind in My Hair) covered the 1,900-meter contest in 1:59 flat, submitting splits of 18-24-24.5-26-26.5. It was just three-fifths of a second off Hazmoore's record.

In Division II, Hyperbid charged through a gap along the rail to beat Palace Hero, snapping the winning rampage of the Rudy Mendoza galloper.

With Antonio Alcasid Jr. aboard, Hyperbid ran second to last in the early going but rallied like a house on fire down the stretch to prevail by a length and bag P180,000.

The four-year-old Penrod-Vice Shy colt scored only his first major triumph in an 8-of-41 record thus far. He clocked 2:02.8, also over 1,900 meters.

Palace Hero (PR Dilema) settled for P67,500, while District Three (Raquel) arrived third for P37,500. First pick Power Drive (ES de Vera) checked in only fourth for P15,000.

Yesterday's Gran Copa staging was headed for another record-breaking climax as sales going into the 10th race has already breached P33.45 million.

Last year's Marho Breeders' Cup festival netted a record P36.9 million in gross sales.

Jolet seizes national super bike lead

SUBIC—Multi-titled Jolet Jao of Shell Advance-YRS lived up to his high billing by winning the rain-interrupted third round of the 2001 National Super Bike Championships at the Subic International Raceway.

Riding almost flawlessly in his Yamaha R6, Jao defeated perennial rivals Toti Alberto, Rey Relativo and Bernard and Benjo Mendoza in the only completed race for the day to take the lead in this annual series organized by the Batangas Racing Circuit Association (BRCA).

Jao proved virtually unstoppable despite the wet conditions of the racetrack due to heavy mid-afternoon downpour.

"I'm very, very happy," said Jao, who made history by becoming the only rider in local history to win the overall titles in road racing, motocross and scooter. "The race was really very difficult due to the wet conditions of the racetrack and I am very fortunate to win easily."

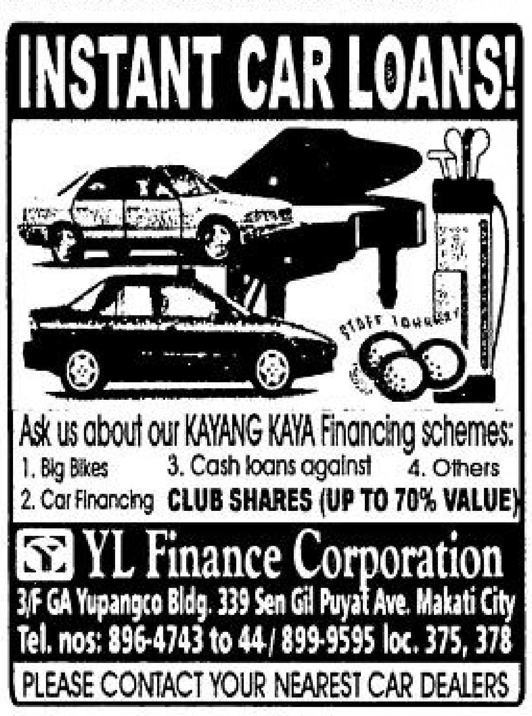
Overall, Jao has a three-round aggregate of 57 points against 47 points of Alberto and 43 points of Relativo based on the 20-17-15-13-11 scoring system.

The 35-year old campaigner from Marikina said Yamaha's advanced motorcycle technology and Shell Advance's race-track proven lubricants and motorcycle oil enabled him to dominate the races against equally-talented rivals.

He also credited his staff, led by team manager Gregorio "Yoyong" Buncio, for their all-out support to-his title-retention campaign in this series sanctioned by the National Motorcycle Sports and Safety Association (NAMSSA).

Buncio said Jao's impressive showing in two of the first three races in this annual series is "a good indication that he is headed for another successful campaign this year."

Jao won one of two races during the kickoff leg held at the Batangas Racing Circuit in Rosario, Batangas last April 29. He also finished a close second to Rod Scott in the other race. The next two rounds are scheduled next month.



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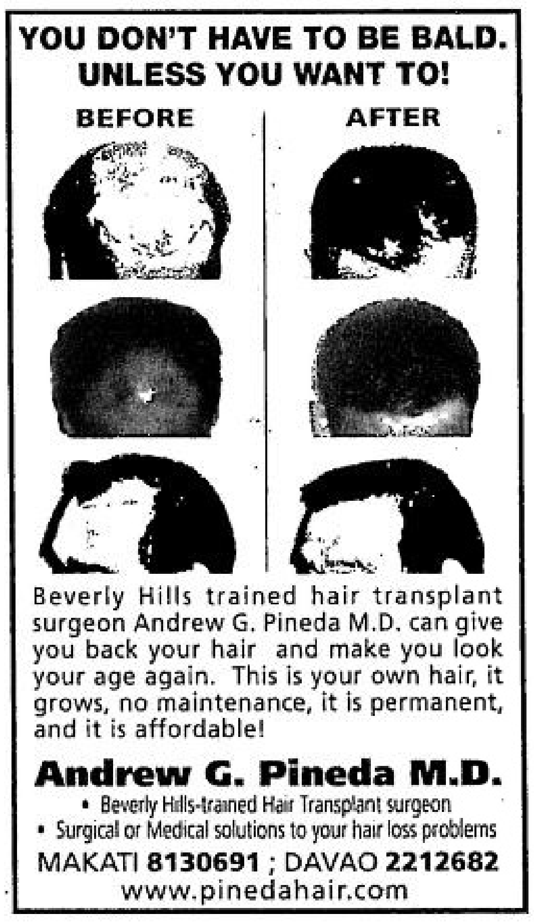

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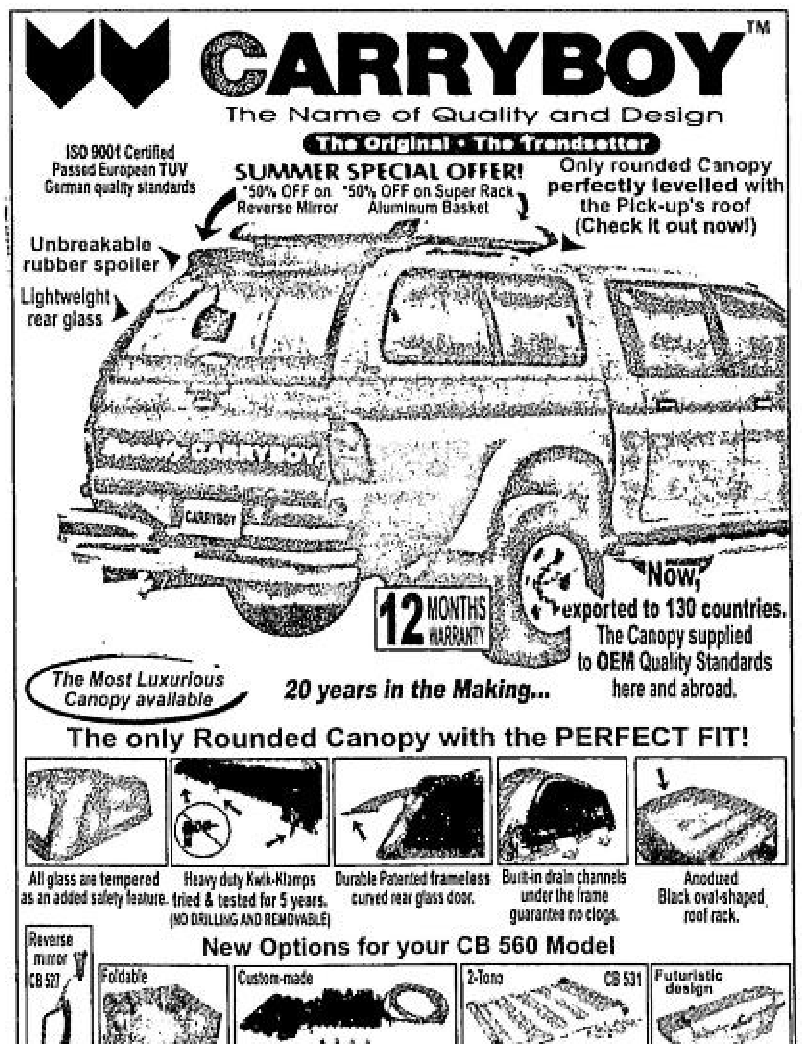

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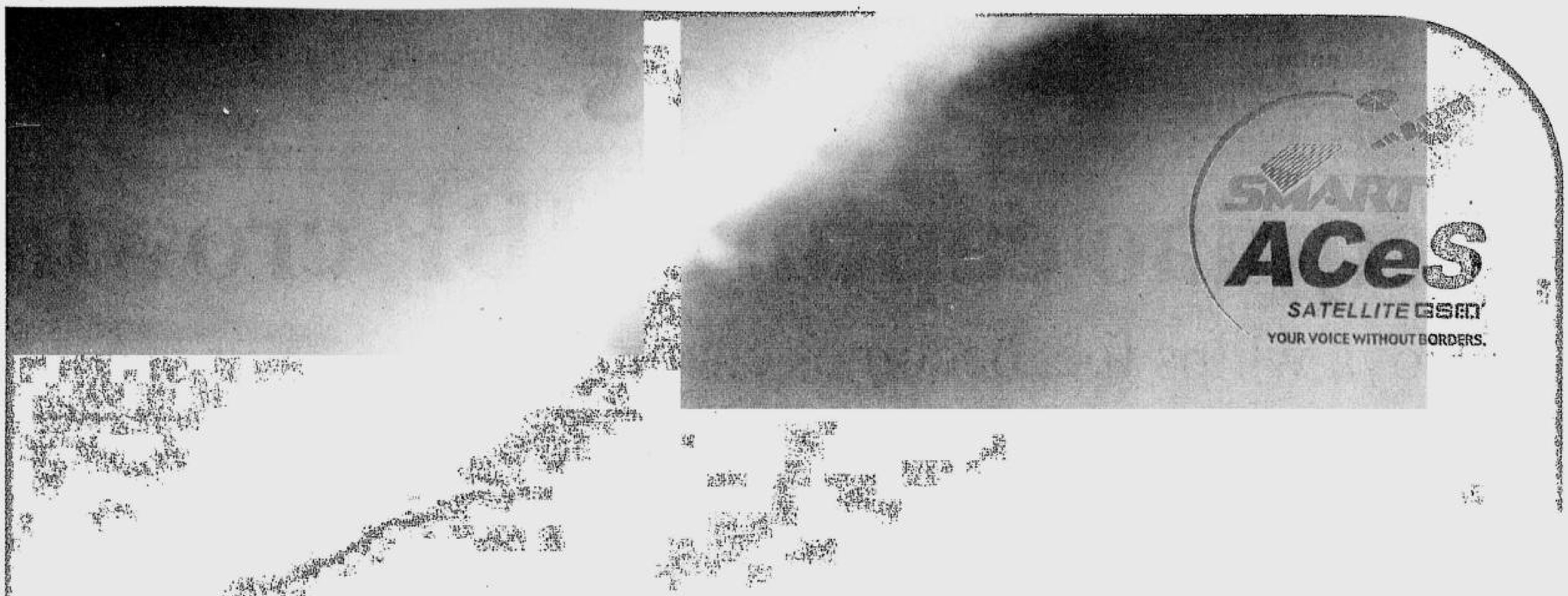

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METRO

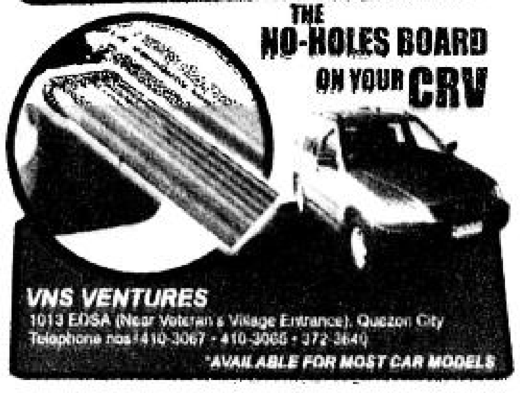
Louie C. Camino, Editor

WHAT'S INSIDE

- Jinggoy wants to party, A26
- Victims' kin seek speedy probe of murder by blunder A26
- Dirty Manila 'no man's land' soon A27
- Solid waste management rules out by August A27
- 2 boys drown in garbage pit A26
- Kidnapping victim escapes with kidnapper's ID A29

SURESTEP STEPBOARDS

New Wave



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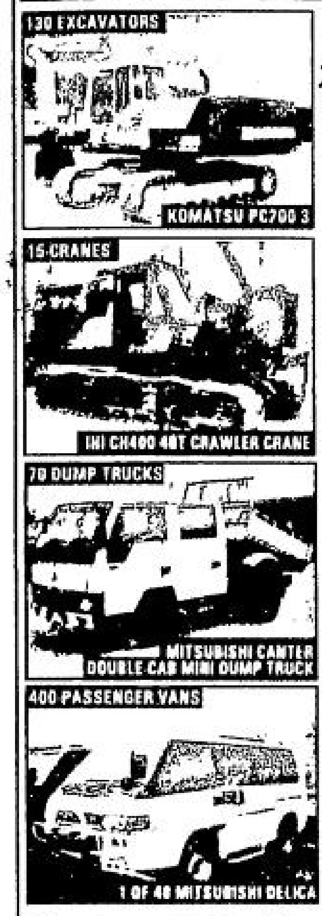
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Jinggoy wants to party

By Volt Contreras

CELEBRATION! Jinggoy Estrada joins San Juan residents in a wet commemoration of the Feast of St. John.

EDWIN BACASMAS

INDICTED San Juan Mayor Jinggoy Estrada yesterday joined his constituents in a "street shower" that marked the feast day of St. John the Baptist, a traditional celebration that involves being doused with water.

With his five-day leave from detention ending yesterday, Estrada is now asking the Sandiganbayan to let him attend a *despedida* (going-away party) with his municipal employees on June 29.

This, despite his being censured earlier for violating the conditions of his temporary liberty.

On the first day of his house arrest, Estrada visited his grandmother Mary Ejercito, then laid a wreath at a Rizal monument near the San Juan town hall. The visit violated the conditions of his temporary release, which allowed Estrada to travel only from his house to the town hall.

Yesterday, Estrada's lawyer Rene Saguisag said he filed a supplemental manifestation on Saturday asking the anti-graft court to grant his client a few more hours outside detention to attend the farewell party on Friday at the municipal hall grounds.

Saguisag stressed that the employees were the ones who would be throwing the party for Estrada, who was mayor of San Juan for the last 12 years.

Estrada also asked the court for 10 more days to wrap up his unfinished official business with project contractors and bankers.

"We're not even sure if the additional 10 days will be granted," Saguisag said in a phone interview. "But what's wrong with granting him a few more hours (for the party)?"

By court order, Estrada was supposed to be back at the Veterans Memorial Medical Center, with his co-accused father, former President Joseph Estrada, not later than 5 p.m. yesterday.

The San Juan mayor was granted a five-day temporary release to facilitate the smooth turnover of municipal hall affairs to his successor, half-brother JV Ejercito. Estrada was also allowed to spend his nights in his home.

But two days later, the court ruled to limit Estrada's free hours from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. after he violated the conditions of his temporary release.

Saguisag also lashed back at those who had criticized the court's perceived leniency toward the detained father and son, among them former Senate President Franklin Drilon, who said the young Estrada did not deserve a furlough since his pending paper work could be accomplished right at the VMMC.

Saguisag argued that Estrada's unfinished tasks were not merely limited to signing documents. He also needed to conduct long meetings with his "constituents, employees, division heads."

"I don't know if you can just 'deliver' his job to the hospital," Saguisag said. "It would be more of a hassle if it's his constituents who would be made to go to Veterans."

4 men in Malabon, Navotas stabbed

By Christian V. Esguerra

A VIOLENT weekend saw two security guards and two other men stabbed dead in separate incidents in Malabon City and Navotas.

Police said Rene Mendiola repeatedly stabbed Ronaldo Marcos, 58, whom he allegedly caught sleeping with his (Mendiola's) wife inside the Mendiola house on Leonio Street in Barangay Taniong, Malabon.

Marcos suffered several stab wounds in the body. He is fighting for his life at the Tondo Medical Center.

A fuming Mendiola stormed his house early Saturday morning on suspicion that his wife and Marcos were there, investigators said.

Mendiola got a knife when he saw his wife and Marcos in his bed, police said.

Mendiola remains at large.

About 8:30 p.m. the same day, Ronaldo Remando was stabbed while his one-year-old son was on his lap in his house on Kasarinlan Street in Muzon, Malabon.

Police identified the suspect as Rodelico Alvarez, who fled after the stabbing.

Authorities are still investigating why Alvarez stabbed Remando.

Early yesterday morning, two security guards were stabbed for a still unknown reason by one Jun Putol in front of Abayan Kitchenette in Barangay North Bay Boulevard North, Navotas.

Police identified the victims as Erwin Bayanban, 25, and Richard Ponce, 26, both residents of the area.

The two men were talking outside the eatery when Jun Putol suddenly came from behind and stabbed them, police said.

Bayanban suffered a stab wound in the left side of the body, while his companion was hit in the left side of the neck.

The suspect remains at large.

5 phone snatchers nabbed in 'snatcher-free' city

By Christian V. Esguerra

A DAY after declaring northern Manila free from cellular phone snatchers, police on Saturday arrested five suspected cell phone thieves, mostly teenagers, in Caloocan City.

The snatchings came immediately after Senior Supt. Vidal Querol, director of the Northern Police District, announced that it was safe to use mobile phones in Caloocan, Malabon, Navotas and Valenzuela.

He said these areas had been cleared of phone snatchers with the deployment of more policemen in crowded places.

But despite the assurance, employee Elizabeth Carpio, 22, of Samson Road, Caloocan, lost her Panasonic cell phone about 5 p.m. Saturday at the Bonifacio Monument Circle.

The suspects, both 16-year-old students, were arrested by PO2s Michelle Alcantara and Enrique Torres.

About half an hour later, two men allegedly took the Nokia 3210 cell phone of Maria Jocelyn de Guzman of Vitas, Tondo, Manila, in front of the Manila Central University Hospital on Edsa.

Police identified the suspects as Michael Robidillo, 18, of Arayat Street, Morning Breeze, Caloocan, and Richard Raymundo, 29, of Constancia Street, Sampaloc, Manila.

PO3 Ramon Galvez and PO2 Michael Viray arrested them and recovered De Guzman's phone.

At around 6 p.m., a 17-year-old boy allegedly snatched the Nokia 5110 cell phone of Noel Lazaro, 23, of DM Compound, Heroes Del 96, Caloocan.

The phone was recovered upon the suspect's arrest.

Phone thief as 'detective'

A MAN has been posing as a mall detective and "confiscating" the cell phones of his victims, according to Mandaluyong police.

Chief Inspector Bienvenido Calag, of the Mandaluyong Police Committee Precinct 4, said the still unidentified suspect has victimized at least six people in malls since January.

Calag said the suspect, who had crewcut hair and usually wore a brown *barong* Tagalog similar to those worn by the security men in malls, has been involved in cases of cell phone robbery at SM Megamall and Shangri-La Plaza.

Calag said most of the suspect's victims were teenagers and students who frequented video and play stations.

He said the suspect would accuse the prospective victim of involvement in a crime and would tell him he would be investigated. The suspect would intimidate his victim by introducing himself as a member of the mall's in-house detective group, and would "confiscate" the victim's cell phone.

Calag said his men posted a cartographic sketch of the suspect in strategic places in malls. *Agnes E. Donato*

JESS YUSON

SIX OF THE 10 suspects in the Lozada-Uson murders faced a Senate probe earlier this month.

Victims' kin cry for speedy probe of murder by blunder

By Blanche S. Rivera

"BERROYA never apologized to us. Even when we saw each other at the Senate, all he asked was if my family got the flowers he sent."

Clavvel Lozada, widow of the New World Hotel chief steward who, together with a family friend, was killed by mistake by policemen, was referring to Philippine National Police Intelligence Group chief Reynaldo Berroya. Ten of Berroya's subordinates are accused of killing by mistake hotel man Fernando Lozada, 48, and his daughter's best friend Marian Uson, 17, in Quezon City in May.

Mrs. Lozada was speaking after a Mass on Saturday afternoon held at the Edsa Shrine.

Seeking justice yet fearing influential police officials, Mrs. Lozada and other relatives and friends of the victims trooped to Edsa to appeal for a speedy investigation of the blundering lawmen.

They expressed fears that the top guns of the PNP could exert influence to whitewash the inquiry into the double murder and attempted murder charges against 10 members of the PNP Intelligence Group.

Mrs. Lozada said she could not understand why the preliminary investigation was taking so long.

She said the defense panel representing the PNP men was obviously employing "delaying tactics" that could jeopardize the investigation and tire out the prosecutors.

The National Bureau of Investigation has already recommended the filing of murder, attempted murder and highway robbery charges against the PNP men allegedly responsible for the May 17 killing of Lozada and Uson.

Mrs. Lozada said they have been receiving threats sent from her daughter's cell phone, which the PNP men took during the ambush.

Carmen Lozada, the victim's older sister, said a car seemed to be watching their house for the past days, cruising along their street with its headlights off.

Two Marine security personnel were assigned to the Lozada family after the victim's relatives reported the threats to NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco and to Senate President Aquilino Pimentel.

"Fortunately they're Marines," Mrs. Lozada said. "I have lost faith in the police."

Lozada was driving his daughter Clarissa, 17, and Uson, Clarissa's best friend, to a debut on the night of May 17 when they encountered the PNP men at the corner of Araneta and Del Monte avenues in Quezon City.

The PNP men, who were wearing civilian clothes but were armed, tried to flag down Lozada's car, suspecting that it belonged to the suspected kidnappers of the son of a deceased Quezon City judge.

Thinking the policemen were kidnappers, Lozada stepped on the gas. This started a wild chase during which the PNP men allegedly fired at Lozada's car.

Lozada died from four gunshot wounds in the head and body. Uson also expired from bullet wounds. Clarissa survived.

"They were best friends since high school," Uson's mother Anita said of the two girls. "Clarissa said she could accept the death of her father but still could not believe her best friend is gone, too."

Accused of involvement in the bloody operation are Supt. Edgar Iglesia, team leader; police officers 1 Frederick Taala, John Bolatin, Arnold Solas and Cherrilyn Tundayag; Chief Insp. James Mejia; Senior Insp. Edwin Portento; and inspectors Preston Bangadan, Cesar Pangda and Christine Tabdi.

Both camps have submitted their sworn statements to the Department of Justice on June 15. The second hearing is scheduled for June 29, and the third for July 6.

Mrs. Lozada said she fears that the case would come to a freeze if the judicial system does not speed up its investigation, or that the same costly mistake would happen to other members of the family.

Mrs. Lozada and Mrs. Uson both said they were hoping against hope that the case would push through without the meddling of influential government and police officials.

"Why is it so hard to get justice in this country?" Mrs. Lozada said in a speech after Saturday's Edsa Shrine Mass. "You always have to wait in the hope that it would come soon. If the suspects had been ordinary people, I think they would be in jail by now."

Later, she said, "There is nothing we can do about their death anymore. But we can put an end to this and let my husband and Marian be the last victims of mistaken identity."

Jaywalker slammed by passenger jeepney

AN ALLEGED jaywalker who tried to cross a street with two companions is fighting for his life after he was hit by a passenger jeepney in Quiapo, Manila yesterday morning.

Members of the Western Police District Traffic Enforcement Group identified the victim as Fernando Martinez, an employee and a resident of Cuevas Tower on Pedro Gil Street, Manila.

Martinez is in critical condition at the Philippine General Hospital with several head and body injuries, police said.

Martinez and co-workers Noli Banton and Jerry Fernandez were crossing Quezon Boulevard in Quiapo about 3 a.m. when Martinez was hit by a passenger jeepney.

The jeepney (CJX-619) was driven by Valriano Gillo, 49, a newspaper dealer and resident of Anahaw Street, Amparo Subdivision, Novaliches, Quezon City.

The impact threw Martinez a few meters away, witness Rannie Recamadas, 27, told investigators. Martinez's companions were not hurt.

Christian V. Esguerra

2 boys drown in pit

By Christian V. Esguerra

THE BLOATED bodies of two boys, aged 7 and 8, surfaced Saturday afternoon in Caloocan City, a day after they drowned in a garbage depot during heavy rains.

Police identified the victims as Roland Harris Soliven, 8, and Jerome Logod, 7, both residents of Sunshine Village, Bagumbong, Caloocan.

The boys on Friday reportedly slipped into a garbage pit that was filled with water due to the heavy downpour that started Thursday night.

They were collecting garbage when the accident occurred at the depot in a three-hectare property owned by a Rolando de la Cruz, police said.

Residents looked for the boys but found them only at around 1 p.m. Saturday when the children's bodies floated.

The victims were still brought to San Lorenzo Hospital in Quezon City, but doctors could not revive them.

Heavy rains brought by typhoon "Emong" stranded hundreds of residents, forced the evacuation of many families, and prompted the suspension of classes in northern Manila on Friday.

Many barangays in Caloocan, Malabon, Navotas and Valenzuela were submerged in deep floodwater.

Stranger in a wine paradise

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

NOT all aged wines are great. In fact, there are very mature vintages that could taste empty and flat. Just like with people: There are young ones that are already exciting and full of character.

Of course, prize-winning wine doesn't come from good grapes alone. A truly fine vintage achieves lyrical perfection only through a tedious, painstaking process.

I learned about this during a four-day stay in Spain late last month where we had the chance to sip and savor some of the finest grapes this side of Paradise.

But, don't you worry, this won't be a lecture on wine tasting.

It was actually a chance trip. My younger brother, who wanted me to visit them and my mother in California, offered to send me a plane ticket last month. I had already filed for office leave when I received this once-in-a-lifetime invitation from Dr. Ruel Reyes of San Pablo to a four-day wine course in Barcelona, which I last visited during the 1992 Olympics.

I saw—and even had the chance to taste—how great grape varieties are gathered, selected, crushed, fermented, kept and aged in oak barrels in cool, deep-dug cellars where they are periodically checked and tasted.

The walk was like taking part in a fantasy movie. It was happily interrupted by sample tasting before barrels that formed silent underground galleries extending two kilometers, and included pauses before giant fermentation vats and stainless steel tanks as tall as two-story buildings.

* * *

So how long must wine be aged in oak barrels in order to achieve perfection?

There's no single answer. Wine soaks up oak, rapidly or slowly, depending on the temperature.

At the Torres vineyards and wineries, it's no secret that each variety is a great challenge; a work of art, if you please.

I also learned, to my great amazement, that there's also such a thing as a wine Olympics. And that my hosts, the Torres family which has been exporting wine to the world since the 1870s, has bagged many gold medals in various wine Olympiads.

There's this tale, told by the eminent Richard Woodard of Wine & Spirit International, of how in 1979, Torres Grand Coronas Black Label 1970 (since re-named Mas La Plana) won the Gault-Millau Wine Olympiad in Paris. This quietly regal Torres product outscored the likes of Chateu Latour and Chateau Haut Brion to grab the gold regularly reserved for French vintage.

Miguel Torres, 59, who has taken over the vast grape empire in Vilafranca del Penedes, some 30 minutes by car from Barcelona, remembered how the French were unimpressed and even belittled the Spanish winner as bawdy.

Don Miguel said his French rivals next tried to liken their world-famous Latour product to a princess, and proceeded to call Grand Coribas, the Spanish Olympic gold medal winner, a maid.

Said Don Miguel with a grin: "But sometimes, a maid can be very beautiful, no?"

* * *

No. It's not actually a Cinderella existence Torres has suddenly discovered. Although it has since been adjudged the most important wine maker in Spain and got ranked among a select dozen known as the global royalty, Torres, as can be traced in a well-appointed family museum, has been dedicated to viticulture since the 17th century.

Well, it's definitely an unsettling experience for a visitor from the Third World, specifically your reporter here who's used to eating with his bare hands, to be seated among food and wine experts from all over the world who never had to wrestle with the royal silverware.

For a stranger whose poor native tongue has been accustomed to the scald of sidestreet gin, wine tasting was something that perfectly fit the movies.

For example, I had to wonder why they would first raise the tall thin glass of wine close to their nose and roll their eyes before they made a very delicate sip.

I continued to wonder. Until a chart, called the Wine Tasting Star, explained that other than color and appearance, dimension and characteristic, a good wine is graded through aroma.

For example, taste development comes through the successive sensations expressed on the palate—between the first impression and aromatic persistence.

This was all Greek to me; although I was also to learn that the Greeks were the first to introduce wine culture before this was developed by the ancient Romans who, after all, were more noted for their love of the good life than the Atheneans.

* * *

I must confess that I felt like an alien and often wondered why they had to go through all these troubles.

I was very thankful for the trip. But, in truth, there was no urgent need to visit the Torres winery.

Friends I have introduced to Torres brandy have remained faithful adherents and continue to tell other people, with unabashed amazement and gratitude, about their great discovery.

Yes, there was no need to dig deep to discover the secret to great wine-making at Vilafranca del Penedes.

I did not have to first smell the wine in the glass before sipping it. I had always believed.

However, permit me to report that out there at Penedes, close to the Mediterranean, Miguel Torres sees to it that each bottle of wine is perfected, slowly and purely, like a lyric.

His way of saying that even poor souls deserve a ticket to Paradise.

Dirty Metro Manila 'no man's land' soon

BY RAFAEL R. CASTILLO, MD
The Charter Bureau

(First of two parts)

A FEW weeks ago, we told Ernie R. that moving to the province, where the air is cleaner, would do him a lot of good. The 50-year-old breadwinner has been in and out of the hospital for recurrent lung infections.

He gave us a pensive look and replied, "Thank you for the concern, but this is where I earn my living for my family. I'd rather die here."

Without realizing its perils, many Metro Manilans are making that difficult decision to stay. Many are not aware that unless something is done about it, by the next decade many parts of Metro Manila will no longer be fit for human habitation.

With the current trend of increasing pollution, available scientific data suggest that it is likely to become a "no man's land."

The warning signs are familiar to all those who live in cities where the air is polluted: aching backs, wheezing, coughing, headache, dizziness and a myriad of other symptoms. Millions of residents of Metro Manila breathe dirty air every day of the year.

It is a largely invisibly, unseen killer: We may never drink dirty water from a garbage-choked *estero*, but everyday we're feeding our lungs with an alarming level of toxic pollutants.

WHO and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) have found that Metro Manila's air shed is one of the five dirtiest and most polluted in the world, topped only by the metropolitan areas of Mexico City, Shanghai and New Delhi.

Health problems caused by air pollution include asthma, lung infections, heart problems, cancers, central nervous system damage and lowered IQs. It is a growing health hazard that has reached monstrous proportions, an epidemic like no other plague we've seen before. And no one, and no community within the metropolis, is immune to this growing health threat.

Damage and death

An August 2000 World Bank study on the Philippine environment stressed that air pollution levels are rapidly increasing. In Metro Manila, the level of particulate matter smaller than 10 microns—very small particles that are easily inhaled into the lungs—were found to exceed national air quality standards by a factor of two.

Increasing evidence suggests that diesel emissions, which make up the very large proportion of particulate emissions in Metro Manila, are both carcinogenic and mutagenic, meaning they can cause cancer and change a cell's DNA, resulting in serious damage to one's health and possibly death.

In February 2001, a University of the Philippines (UP) study found that if Metro Manila's worsening air pollution is not immediately addressed, the city will not be suitable for human habitation within 10 years.

In an April 2000 international conference in Manila, it was reported that the number of children being killed or sickened by pollution has reached alarming levels. Toxicologists and doctors from more than 30 countries highlighted air pollution as a major cause of respiratory diseases, accounting for up to 20 percent of all deaths of children under the age of five each year. Asthma among children was reported to have doubled over the last 20 years, while allergists noted an alarming increase in cases in Metro Manila.

In March 2000, the World Health Organization (WHO) reported that air pollution in Metro Manila is four times the prescribed limit, and that the level of air pollution will likely double in a matter of several years. Levels of lead were found to be more than three times the established safety limit, and concentrations of suspended particulate matter dangerously high.

Critical proportions

WHO and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) have found that Metro Manila's air shed is one of the five dirtiest and most polluted in the world, topped only by the metropolitan areas of Mexico City, Shanghai and New Delhi.

About 6,000 tons of particulates, chemicals and other pollutants are emitted by Metro Manila's two-to-three million vehicles, hundreds of factories, and households daily.

Last year, congressional authors of the Clean Air Act in the Philippines estimated that 10-16 people die every day in Metro Manila of respiratory diseases caused by air pollution, or nearly 6,000 people annually. Most deaths in the metropolis are caused by respiratory illnesses.

METROPOLITAN MIASMA threatens residents, including children who spend a lot of time outdoors.

The Asian Development Bank states in a technical study that the air pollution problem in Metro Manila has reached critical proportions. The reasons: a 10 percent annual growth rate in the vehicle fleet; increased traffic, poor traffic planning that reduces speeds and escalates commuting times, and poorly tuned motors that run unnecessary extra hours, which in effect multiply the pollutants being released into the air.

Other sources of air pollution include power plants, factories, industries, restaurants, and most recently, the indiscriminate burning of garbage around the metropolis.

Bright spot

While the government has passed the Clean Air Act, and ADB has extended $300 million for an intensive, integrated urban air pollution abatement project in Metro Manila and has supported various traffic improvement projects over the years, the megacity's air quality continues to decline.

One bright spot: Executive Order No. 466, signed in 1997 and implemented in full in 2000, phased out leaded gasoline and is considered a major accomplishment.

Metro Manila's air quality crisis grows in scale daily. Vehicle densities, for instance, have increased from 675,310 in 1990 to 1.2 million in 1998, to more than 2 million in 2001.

Vehicle density in Metro Manila (636 sq km) has gone from 1,600 per sq. km in 1995 to 3,144 per sq. km in 2000, and has an accelerating rate of growth. There is a direct linear correlation between the number of cars on the road and the amount of pollution in the air.

Despite the completion of the Edsa MRT, little effort has been undertaken to reduce the 500 or so bus companies operating some 5,000-plus diesel-spewing buses on Metro Manila's roadways or to relocate any of the bus terminals that clog Edsa. And with any level of economic growth—welcome news for sure—will come increased transport demands in the city.

Cancer

A new and very hazardous twist to the problem is the burning of garbage, which emits particularly noxious and dangerous pollutants into the air. Residents are solving their household garbage crisis by burning garbage on an individual basis, while large swathes of illegally dumped garbage are burned regularly along C-5, Commonwealth Avenue and other major roads.

Burning plastic that contains chlorine molecules produces cancer-causing dioxins—the toxins of Agent Orange—¾and furans, substances that are very dangerous to human health.

According to the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), dioxin and related compounds have the ability to alter the growth of cells and initiate changes that could result in the development of cancer. Dioxin has also been linked to developmental defects in children and to immune system and reproductive disorders.

Particulates

About two-thirds of Metro Manila's air pollution is caused by vehicular emissions while one-third is caused by industry. Fine particulates are the biggest problem, which are emitted directly as smoke and diesel soot and which can be inhaled deep into the lungs. This is the black soot and grime we find throughout our homes, which blackens our children's feet (and lungs), and which clogs the filters of air cleaners (for those lucky enough to have them).

Particulates are measured in total suspended particulates (TSP), and two subsets of TSP are PM-10 and PM-2.5. PM-10 and PM- 2.5 are serious concerns because the particulates are so tiny that they easily pass through the sieve of the nostrils and penetrate the lungs and cause a variety of respiratory illnesses, possibly cancer and eventual death.

The DENR reports that PM-10 levels were 300 percent over Philippine standards and TSP was over Philippine standards by 500 percent. New data show that the levels of PM-10 and, by inference, PM-2.5, are very high in Metro Manila's residential areas and pose considerable risk to human health.

Consider that the levels of exposure are dramatically higher than levels experienced in developed countries such as the United States and in Europe. Yet a number of definitive studies, such as the one reported in the December 2000 *New England Journal of Medicine*, links human mortality rates with PM-10 concentrations well below the current US standards and much lower than levels that we are exposed to in Metro Manila. ***(To be concluded tomorrow)***

(Charter is the acronym for Clinical Hypertension and Atherosclerosis Research on Therapies, Epidemiology and Risk-management, a research foundation which evaluates the impact of risk factors and interventions, particularly lifestyle modification, on heart, lung and other diseases. It is headed by Dr. Castillo, who is also a past president of the Philippine Heart Association/ Philippine College of Cardiology. Comments or inquiries may be e-mailed to raffymd@i-manila.com.ph)

LEGARDA

Solid waste management rules out by August

ALARMED by the worsening garbage problem, government officials on Friday committed to finish by the end of August the implementing rules and regulations of the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act.

The commitment was made during the consultative forum attended by almost 200 officials from government agencies, local government units, the private sector and civil society. The forum was held at the Hotel Rembrandt in Quezon City.

Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Ramon Paje said the problem of environmental degradation in general and solid waste management in particular only lead to "more poverty."

"There is so much to be analyzed in the problem of waste," he said.

The United Nations Development Programme, echoing the government's concern, said the garbage problem "unfortunately seems to be near crisis proportions."

UNDP acting resident representative Ricarda Rieger said solid waste management poses a major challenge and threatens to negate the gains made in sanitation, health and environmental management.

"A concerted effort from all sectors—national government, LGUs, NGOs and private sector and the communities—becomes absolutely necessary," she said.

The problem of solid waste management has drawn the attention of leaders from all sectors, including Sen. Loren Legarda, who said "an end to the garbage problem, especially in the most densely populated areas of the country, remains out of reach."

Legarda, vice chair of the Senate committee on environment, challenged the DENR, in particular the Environmental Management Bureau, to speed up the drafting of the implementing rules and regulations of RA No. 9003.

It was the first law to be signed by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo as a sign of her commitment to adopt a systematic and comprehensive solid waste management program nationwide.

EMB Director Peter Abaya said they could finish the implementing rules and regulations during the last week of August, five months ahead of the one-year deadline imposed by the new law.

"We are committed to solve the problem of solid waste management by taking the first step—giving flesh to RA No. 9003," he said.

Apart from stunting economic development, the garbage problem also poses a health risk to communities, added Hisashi Ogawa, Western Pacific regional director of WHO.

People exposed to solid wastes are more prone to a host of diseases, ranging from cancer, hepatitis, pulmonary infections, tuberculosis, skin problems and allergies ***(See related story).***

Northern Police denies return of 'kotong' cops

BY CHRISTIAN V. ESGUERRA

CONTRARY to speculations allegedly fanned by the camp of former Philippine National Police chief Panfilo Lacson, "kotong" cops are not back, according to Northern Police District director Senior Supt. Vidal Querol.

The NPD head on Friday assured the public that mulcting policemen are "still being kept at bay" especially in northern Manila.

Querol was reacting to observations that "kotong" cops have returned to the streets after Lacson, now a senator, was replaced by Director Leandro Mendoza as PNP chief.

During his high-profile senatorial campaign, Lacson claimed he had cleared the streets of extorting policemen to encourage the public to vote for him.

"There's the impression that *kotong* cops are back after Lacson left," Querol told the INQUIRER.

"But we want to assure the public that police are working hard to clear the streets of these undesirable elements."

Querol said his men are constantly on alert for extortionists disguised as policemen who fleece pedestrians and motorists.

"We want to keep the streets safe so that the public will not worry," he said.

Last week, Valenzuela police arrested a man who posed as a traffic enforcer and extorted money from motorists on McArthur Highway in Barangay Malinta.

Authorities identified the suspect as Leopoldo Enero, 45, of Eleanor Street, Pacheco Village, Balubaran, Valenzuela.

Police arrested Enero after he allegedly accosted businessman Ricardo Reyes and demanded money to settle an alleged traffic violation.

Reyes reported the incident to PO3 Ferdinand Buban and PO3 Angelito Lam. The police officers later caught Enero in the act of extorting money from other motorists.

Police recovered from Enero a booklet of traffic violation receipts of the Manila Metropolitan Development Authority, an ID card supposedly issued by an international narcotics group, and crumpled peso bills believed to have been extorted from motorists.

Caloocan police earlier arrested a former policeman who extorted money from another police officer.

GMA 7 giving Arnold Clavio 'everything' he wants

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

DESPITE an offer from the rival network, **Arnold Clavio** says he is not about to leave GMA 7, where he hosts the daily morning show, "Unang Hirit," and the weekly investigative programs "Emergency" and "Brigada Siete."

On radio, Arnold is also heard daily on GMA's AM station, dzBB, in his award-winning show, "Double A sa Double B."

When told that we heard the same line from other GMA 7 talents who are now with ABS-CBN, Arnold says he has no complaints working with GMA. The network has given him breaks that other broadcast journalists are still dreaming of.

"It's like having foster parents who give you everything you want," he says. "So why will you still look for your real parents?"

Arnold is grateful to his GMA bosses who have been supporting him in his TV and radio career.

"They don't act like they're bosses," he says. "They're very approachable. We text each other, we even send jokes to each other. *Puwede ko silang alaskahin* and they won't really mind.

"*Si* Atty. **Dan** (**de Padua**), he looks like **Joey Lina**, so *tawag ko diyan noon Senador*. Then when Joey Lina became governor, *naging* Governor *na rin ang tawag ko kay* Attorney Dan. It's all for fun and they don't take it personally."

Arnold has come a long way from his humble beginnings in an AM radio station.

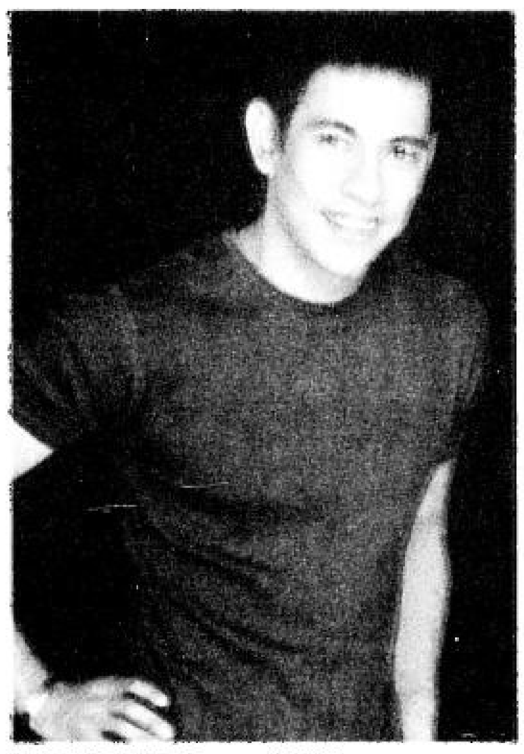
"That's why doing 'Unang Hirit' is not really hard for me because I'm used to an early morning job. My first job was as a news writer for the 4 a.m. news on dwIZ. I would commute from Tondo to Quezon City. 'Unang Hirit' was just like going back to that old schedule."

The journalism graduate from the University of the Philippines has even turned into a celebrity endorser. Still, he has not let success go to his head. We have yet to hear stories about Arnold throwing his weight around.

CLAVIO. Won't let success go to his head.

Arnold still likes to do field work, just like **Jessica Soho**. He is even willing to risk life and limb just to get the story. He was, in fact, hurt during the arrest of former President Joseph Estrada, when pro-Erap supporters pounced on him.

We hope Arnold will remain that way for a long time.



VALENCIANO. Successful US concert tour.

Gary V's 'Radical' success

WE heard from **Gina Valenciano-Martinez**, sister of pop idol **Gary Valenciano**, about her brother's successful concert tour in the United States.

Gina was happily narrating the content of the e-mail from Gary's wife, **Angeli Pangilinan-Valenciano**, who was with him throughout the "Radical" concert tour.

Gary did a total of eight performances in the US, including shows in California (Reno, Sacramento, San Jose, San Diego), Chicago, plus three special Christian concerts in Sacramento and Houston.

He wowed a huge audience of Fil-Americans when he packed the Skyline Stage of the Navy Pier in Chicago. Gary is the first Asian performer to hold a concert in the prestigious venue.

His opening act in Chicago was Filipino singer **Jocelyn Enriquez**, who has landed several times on the Billboard music charts.

It was a near-sold-out crowd, according to long-time concert promoter **Danny Tinimbang**, who also sent an e-mail to Gina. He said fans flew in or drove from other states like Wisconsin, Ohio, Iowa, New York and even Canada just to watch the concert.

Gary brought the audience to tears when he sang the inspirational "The Warrior is a Child." He amused them with his antics. Most applauded was his scatting in the "Mas Que Nada" number.

Gina refuted the talk that some of Gary's show dates were canceled because of poor ticket sales. She said only the Houston leg of the tour had to be postponed due to a flood that hit four days before Gary's performance.

But despite the setback, Gary opted to do a testimonial concert on June 14, which brought 700 people to the St. Thomas Aquinas Church. Gary was amazed that the crowd came even with only a one-day notice.

In Sacramento, Alaska import **Sean Chambers** was in the audience and visited Gary in his suite after the show.

After his show on June 22 at the Florida Theater in Jacksonville, Florida, Gary visited his Puerto Rican mom, **Grimilda Ortiz**, and his other siblings in Orlando.

Gary was backed up by the Genesis production team—vocalists **May Ann Casal-Soriano** and **Melissa Fontano**, musical director **Mon Faustino**, the Powerplay Band, **Joshua Zamora** and **Bryan Rosal** of the Manoeuvres, and technical consultants **Jaime Godinez** for sound and **Tonet Abrilla** for lighting.

During the "Radical" tour, Gary's fans showered him with stuffed toys, flowers, letters, cards, CDs, books and other gifts.

Gary is expected to arrive tomorrow, June 26, but he is set to leave again after two days to attend an Asian convention in Bangkok.

After he returns again to Manila, he will release "Lupa," the second single from his double-platinum album, "Revive," from Universal Records. The song is a revival of a **Rico J. Puno** original.

Before he left for the US, Gary completed the five-weekend "Gary V: By Re-

GMA 7/ A31

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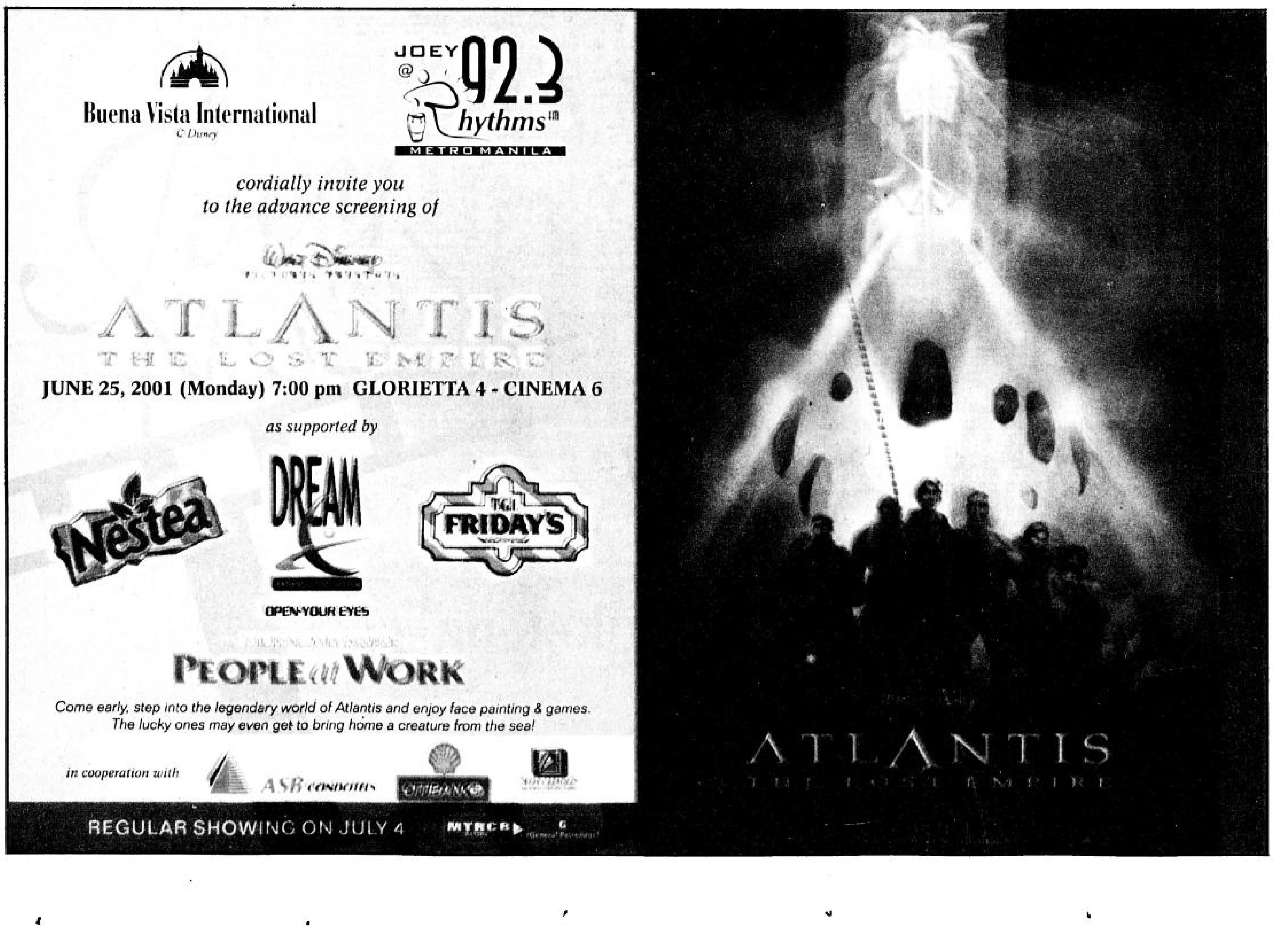

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REGULAR SHOWING ON JULY 4

752 car thefts in 5 months —Herrera

A TOTAL of 752 car theft cases were reported to the authorities from January to May this year, according to Rep. Ernesto Herrera (Lakas, Bohol), founding chair of the anti-crime monitoring group Citizens' DrugWatch Foundation.

Herrera said the National Police Traffic Management Group figures translate into a monthly average of 150 car theft cases—down by four percent or six incidents compared to the monthly average of 156 reported in the entire 12 months of last year.

A total of 1,877 car theft cases were reported in 2000 as against the 1,909 documented in 1999, he said.

He stressed the need for the authorities to sustain the drive against syndicated car thieves, particularly those being protected by corrupt law enforcers and former officials of the Land Transportation Office.

He also said the next Congress should pass new legislation that would curb car theft.

The last Congress failed to pass a bill that would have added more teeth to the Anti-Car Theft Law. The House of Representatives approved the bill earlier this year, but the Senate failed to pass it.

The measure would have imposed more stringent controls on the inter-island shipment and dismantling of motor vehicles. It would have also required shipping operators to regularly submit to Camp Crame a report on all vehicles and parts shipped.

Suspect in slay of driver nabbed

POLICE arrested a Taguig neighborhood toughie last Saturday in connection with the killing last week of a former president of a tricycle association.

Ronaldo Linganay, 43, of 54 Paraiso St., Lower Bicutan, was arrested in his house by Taguig police after he was identified by a witness as the man who killed Wilfredo Mainit on June 20.

Mainit was shot in the back of the head with a .45 caliber pistol while driving his tricycle along Barrameda Street in Taguig, police said.

PO3 Alain Sigua said Linganay first boarded Mainit's tricycle and even sat behind the driver. Along Barrameda Street, Linganay pulled out his pistol and shot the driver without any provocation, Sigua said.

He said the suspect then just walked away, as if no shooting had happened.

Sigua said an old grudge could be the motive behind the killing. Linganay refused to give any statement to police, he said.

The suspect is now detained at the Taguig police headquarters. *Nelson F. Flores*

'Traffic discipline zone'

A MEMORANDUM of agreement was signed recently declaring the Skyway system as a traffic discipline zone (TDZ), where vigorous efforts will be made to promote safety and ensure that motorists obey traffic rules.

The agreement was entered into by the Land Transportation Office (LTO), the Philippine National Police-Traffic Management Group (PNP-TMG), Citra Metro Manila Tollways Corp. (CMMTC) and the Philippine National Construction Corp. (PNCC).

The Skyway system, which was designed, constructed and financed by CMMTC, is composed of the elevated expressway from Makati to Bicutan, and the at-grade section of the South Luzon Tollway between Magallanes and Alabang.

The PNCC Skyway Corp., a subsidiary of the PNCC, operates and maintains the Skyway system.

Under the agreement, strict and uniform implementation of traffic rules and regulations will be enforced in the Skyway system. Such rules include Republic Act No. 8749 (Clean Air Act of 1999) and RA 8750 (Seat Belt Use Law).

Aside from the Skyway system, the agreement covers the rest of South Luzon Toll way and North Luzon Toll way (SLT and NLT).

PARAÑAQUE Mayor-elect Joey Marquez takes his oath of office before Vice President Teofisto Guingona at the Guingona residence in New Manila, Quezon City two Sundays ago. Marquez beat Dr. Pablo Olivarez by 14,085 votes to take his third and last term as mayor of the southern Metro Manila city. Beside Marquez is wife Alma Moreno.

PRESIDENT Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo administers the oath of office to Tagaytay City Mayor Francis Tolentino in Malacañang Tolentino became controversial because of petitions to disqualify him in the May 14 elections. The Commission on Elections dismissed the petitions. Tolentino is now vying for the presidency of the League of City Mayors of the Philippines.

Mehan conservationists to gather 1M signatures

By Christian V. Esguerra

ANGRY environmentalists yesterday launched an unprecedented "Green People Power" campaign to pressure Manila Mayor Lito Atienza into aborting his plan to build a campus in the city's historic Mehan Garden.

The campaign will be highlighted by the collection of at least one million signatures nationwide "to show Atienza that Filipinos are against the destruction of Mehan Garden," said Odette Alcantara of the Mother Earth Foundation.

"Enough is enough," she said at yesterday's launch of the signature drive at Rizal Park. "We want the mayor to know that even if he holds a plebiscite, people would not support his project."

But "running priest" Fr. Robert Reyes of Earth Day Network feared that it might be difficult for the signature drive to gain support from the poor since Atienza is allegedly "blackmailing" them.

He said the mayor promised not to demolish squatter communities in Manila if only to court the poor into supporting his plan to construct a building for the City College of Manila at the Mehan Garden.

"Mayor Atienza is the biggest trapo (traditional politician) in Metro Manila," Reyes said.

"Like a *trapo* (rag), he absorbs then distributes the dirt of commercialization and materialism."

During the launch of the signature drive dubbed "Green People Power" yesterday, Araw ng Maynila, environmentalists and conservationists said they would file next month a petition for a temporary restraining order before the Supreme Court to prevent the "desecration" of Mehan Garden.

Former Senate president Jovito Salonga will head the legal team, Alcantara said.

She said the TRO petition would be filed after the one million signatures have been collected nationwide.

After the campaign, concerned citizens will go to the city hall to show Atienza the public's overwhelming clamor to stop the Mehan Garden project, she said.

"We will ask the mayor why he's so obsessed with destroying Mehan Garden."

As early as yesterday, the campaign has gained the support of prominent figures in politics and business.

Among the signatories were former President Fidel Ramos, his wife Amelita, and his sister former senator Leticia Shahani, former senatorial bet Manuel Morato, and Robert Aventajado, a former adviser of jailed President Joseph Estrada.

Antonio Cojuangco, chair of the National Museum, and Philip Juico, head of IBC-13, are also supporting the campaign.

Kidnapping victim escapes with kidnapper's ID

A 22-YEAR-OLD saleswoman was able to escape from two men who allegedly abducted her in Mandaluyong City early yesterday morning.

Senior Insp. Efren Jugo, chief of the Mandaluyong Police Criminal Investigation Division, identified the victim as Racquel Frivaldo, 22, of Barangay Ilaya, Mandaluyong City.

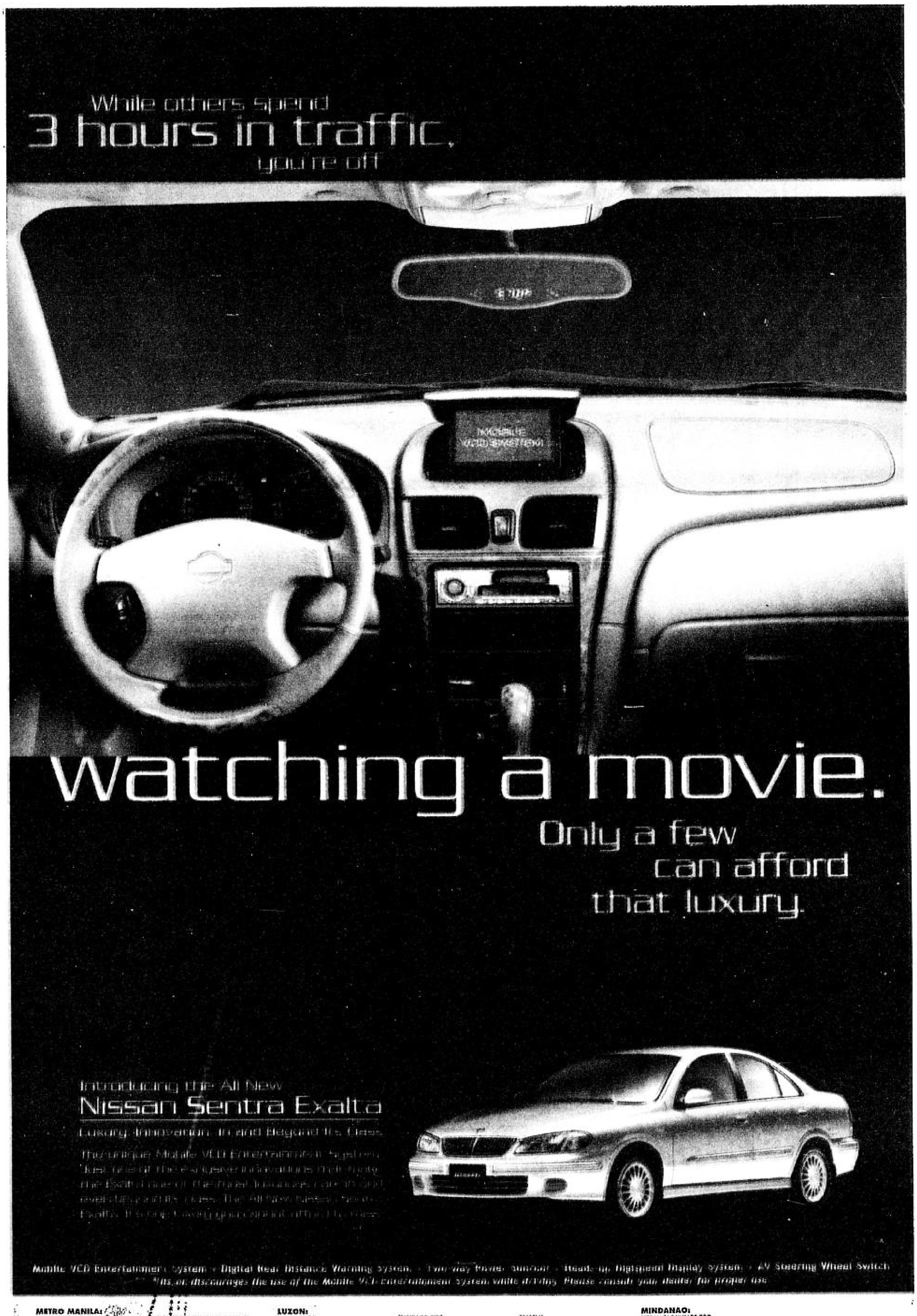
Jugo said Frivaldo identified one of her alleged abductors as Jayson C. Vivas, a resident of Dr. Sixto Antonio Avenue, Barangay Rosario, Pasig and said to be a member of his barangay's security force.

Frivaldo was able to grab Vivas' identification card (Barangay Rosario Security Force ID No. W17-110) before she escaped, police said.

Investigators said Frivaldo had just come from a party and was waiting for a ride home along Boni Avenue when a car suddenly stopped in front of her at 5:30 a.m.

Two men alighted and dragged her into the car, telling her they would bring her home. They asked her where she lived but the car went the other way after she gave them directions.

But the men lost their way and had to ask for directions from tricycle drivers on Libertad Street. Frivaldo said she seized the chance to flee when one of them men alighted to ask for directions. She then grabbed an ID card that was lying on the dashboard before she dashed toward the tricycle drivers and barangay security men.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1	HEAD OVER HEELS
2	MAGENTA
3	PEARL HARBOR
4	ACCIDENTAL SPY
5	EVOLUTION
6	LUV TEXT
7	KASIBULAN
8	BUHAY KAMAO

SM CENTERPOINT
7149522-7161416

1	LUV TEXT
2	HEAD OVER HEELS
3	ACCIDENTAL SPY
4	DR. T & THE WOMEN
5	PEARL HARBOR
6	THE REPLICANT
7	EVOLUTION
8	THE MUMMY RETURNS
9	BUHAY KAMAO
10	KASIBULAN

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
9350749

1	SPOT
2	PEARL HARBOR
3	MAGENTA
4	ACCIDENTAL SPY
5	BUHAY KAMAO
6	LUV TEXT
7	PEARL HARBOR
8	THE MUMMY RETURNS
9	EVOLUTION
10	THE REPLICANT
11	HEAD OVER HEELS
12	KASIBULAN

SM CITY MANILA
5238240

1	ACCIDENTAL SPY
2	PEARL HARBOR
3	DR. T & THE WOMEN
4	EVOLUTION
5	THE MUMMY RETURNS
6	EVOLUTION
7	KASIBULAN
8	GET OVER IT
9	LUV TEXT
10	THE REPLICANT
11	HEAD OVER HEELS
12	BUHAY KAMAO

SM MEGAMALL
6331901 • 6329401

1	OPENS JUNE 27
2	OPENS JUNE 27
3	OPENS JUNE 27
4	OPENS JUNE 27
5	OPENS JUNE 27
6	OPENS JUNE 27
7	ACCIDENTAL SPY
8	PEARL HARBOR
9	DR. T & THE WOMEN
10	HEAD OVER HEELS
11	EVOLUTION
12	LUV TEXT

SM TUTUBAN
2514302

1	EVOLUTION
2	LUV TEXT
3	BUHAY KAMAO
4	ACCIDENTAL SPY

dts DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND•EX

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
9205452

1	LUV TEXT
2	HEAD OVER HEELS
3	THE REPLICANT
4	BUHAY KAMAO
5	DR. T & THE WOMEN
6	ACCIDENTAL SPY
7	EVOLUTION
8	PEARL HARBOR
9	MAGENTA
10	EVOLUTION
11	KASIBULAN
12	THE MUMMY RETURNS

SM SOUTHMALL
8066098 • 8056782

1	THE REPLICANT
2	DR. T & THE WOMEN
3	EVOLUTION
4	ACCIDENTAL SPY
5	SPOT
6	HEAD OVER HEELS
7	LUV TEXT
8	PEARL HARBOR
9	BUHAY KAMAO
10	KASIBULAN

SM GUADALUPE COMM'L
8830905

1	BUHAY KAMAO
2	LUV TEXT
3	ACCIDENTAL SPY

SM CEBU
2313816

1	PEARL HARBOR
2	SUGAR & SPICE
3	HEAD OVER HEELS
4	VALENTINE
5	LUV TEXT
6	BUHAY KAMAO
7	THE REPLICANT

SM ILOILO
3209422

1	ANTS IN THE PANTS
2	CLOSED
3	HEAD OVER HEELS
4	PEARL HARBOR
5	ANGEL EYES
6	PEARL HARBOR
7	CLOSED
8	VALENTINE

SM PAMPANGA
7128915

1	PEARL HARBOR
2	EVOLUTION
3	THE REPLICANT
4	SPOT
5	BUHAY KAMAO
6	LUV TEXT

SM SUCAT
8294975

1	ACCIDENTAL SPY
2	PEARL HARBOR
3	EVOLUTION
4	LUV TEXT

SM DAVAO

1
2
3
4
5
6

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GLORIETTA 1
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1	LUV TEXT
2	PEARL HARBOR
3	ACCIDENTAL SPY
4	EVOLUTION

GLORIETTA 4

1	HEAD OVER HEELS In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
2	DR. T & THE WOMEN In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3	PEARL HARBOR THX In DSD/SDDS/DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4	THE APOSTLE (Phil. Premiere) in DTS DIGITAL SOUND Art Film
5	ACCIDENTAL SPY In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
6	EVOLUTION In DTS/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
7	GET OVER IT In DTS DIGITAL SOUND

GREENBELT

1	DR. T & THE WOMEN In DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL SOUND
2	EVOLUTION in SONY DYNAMIC DIGITAL SOUND
3	LUV TEXT In DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL SOUND
4	MARTIN NIEVERA LIVE June 22 & 23 9PM Onstage

ALABANG TOWN CENTER

1	PEARL HARBOR THX In DSD/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
2	DR. T & THE WOMEN In DSD DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3	EVOLUTION In DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4	ACCIDENTAL SPY In DTS DIGITAL SOUND
5	LUV TEXT in DTS DIGITAL SOUND

MMTA

METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE

NOW SHOWING

EMAIL: mmta@asia.com

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 (DDS)	EVOLUTION
2 (SDDS)	PEARL HARBOR
3 (DTS)	ACCIDENTAL SPY
4 GOLD (DTS)	HEAD OVER HEELS
5 GOLD (DOLBY)	DR. T & THE WOMEN
6 GOLD (SDDS)	PEARL HARBOR
7 GOLD (DOLBY)	EVOLUTION
8 [illegible]	THE REPLICANT
9 [illegible]	LUV TEXT
10 [illegible]	BUHAY KAMAO

Pearl Plaza Cinemas
(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486

1	KASIBULAN
2	
3 (DTS)	
4	BUHAY KAMAO
5	
6 (DTS)	PEARL HARBOR

Golden Pearl THX

Masagana CINEMAX 1-2 & 3
(Kalaw) tel 536.4315

1 (DOLBY)	EVOLUTION
2 (DTS)	ACCIDENTAL SPY
3	LUV TEXT

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 831.6603

1	LUV TEXT
2	EVOLUTION
3	ACCIDENTAL SPY

Starmall Movies
(Shaw Blvd.) tel 724.4986

1	LUV TEXT
2	ACCIDENTAL SPY
3	BUHAY KAMAO
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	EVOLUTION
5	KASIBULAN

Metropolis
(Alabang) tel 543.4001

1	RESERVE
2	MAGENTA
3	LUV TEXT
4	BUHAY KAMAO
5	PEARL HARBOR
6	EVOLUTION
7	ACCIDENTAL SPY
8	KASIBULAN

LOUIE'S CINEMA THX
(Makati City) tel 751.2010/892.3349

1	EVOLUTION

Center Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	PEARL HARBOR
2	PEARL HARBOR

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC
tel 930.9515

1	KASIBULAN
2	PREDATOR
3	LUV TEXT

Spring
(Libertad, Pasay City) tel 831.7864

1
A

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1	LUV TEXT
2	EVOLUTION
3	KASIBULAN
4	PEARL HARBOR

GOTESCO CINEMA

City
(Manila) tel 734 8588

1 (DOLBY)	EVOLUTION
2	MAGENTA
3	KASIBULAN
4	BUHAY KAMAO
5	HEAD OVER HEELS
6	LUV TEXT
7 (DTS)	DR T & THE WOMEN
8 (SDDS)	ACCIDENTAL SPY
9 (DOLBY)	PEARL HARBOR

Caloocan
tel 362.3508

2	LUV TEXT

Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781

1	BUHAY KAMAO
2	LUV TEXT
3	KASIBULAN
4 (SDDS)	EVOLUTION
5	ACCIDENTAL SPY
6 (DOLBY)	PEARL HARBOR
7 (DTS)	THE REPLICANT
8	THE MUMMY RETURNS
9	MAGENTA

Commonwealth
tel 951.0083

1 (DTS)	ACCIDENTAL SPY
2	KASIBULAN
3	THE REPLICANT
4	MAGENTA
5 (SDDS)	PEARL HARBOR
6	LUV TEXT
7 (DOLBY)	EVOLUTION
8	BUHAY KAMAO

Ortigas
tel 656.6795

1	LUV TEXT
2	BUHAY KAMAO
3 (DTS)	EVOLUTION
4	KASIBULAN
5 (SDDS)	ACCIDENTAL SPY

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470

1	LUV TEXT

Sampaguita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888

1	LUV TEXT

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson	LIVE FLESH
Lords	
Jennet	KASIBULAN

MARKETPLACE Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1	ACCIDENTAL SPY
2	LUV TEXT
3	KASIBULAN
4	EVOLUTION

Prima
(Pasig) tel 641.1215

1	
3	LUV TEXT

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
SUPER CINERAMA tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY)	EVOLUTION
2	ACCIDENTAL SPY
3	KASIBULAN
4	LUV TEXT
5	BUHAY KAMAO

New Divisoria Mall CINEMA
tel 244.4619

1	LUV TEXT
2	ACCIDENTAL SPY
3	KASIBULAN
4	BUHAY KAMAO
5	MAGENTA
6	EVOLUTION

Baclaran LRT CINEMA
tel 512.0115

1 (DOLBY)	LUV TEXT
2	ACCIDENTAL SPY
3	KASIBULAN
4	
5	

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198

1	EVOLUTION
2	BUHAY KAMAO
3 (DTS)	LUV TEXT

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	EVOLUTION
2 (DTS)	HEAD OVER HEELS
3 (DOLBY)	PEARL HARBOR
4	LUV TEXT

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	ACCIDENTAL SPY
2	KASIBULAN
3	LUV TEXT
4 (DTS)	EVOLUTION

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	EVOLUTION
2	LUV TEXT
3 (DTS)	HEAD OVER HEELS
4	BUHAY KAMAO
5	LABRADOR

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	BUHAY KAMAO
2	LUV TEXT
3	EVOLUTION

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 536.5101

1	LUV TEXT
2	EVOLUTION
3	BUHAY KAMAO

Olivarez Tagaytay
tel (046) 413.0311

1	THE REPLICANT
2	PEARL HARBOR
3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT

Morales Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736

1	EVOLUTION
2	LUV TEXT
3	ANTS IN THE PANTS

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS)	LUV TEXT
2 (DTS)	BUHAY KAMAO

Fourstep
(Cavite) tel (046) 416.2385

1	LUV TEXT

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	LABRADOR
2	LUV TEXT
3	BUHAY KAMAO

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	PEARL HARBOR
2	BUHAY KAMAO
3	ANTS IN THE PANTS
4	SPOT

Berma
tel 879.2168

1	KASIBULAN
2	LUV TEXT

CitiMall
(Parañaque) tel 820.7269

1	ACCIDENTAL SPY
2	BUHAY KAMAO
3	LUV TEXT
4	EVOLUTION

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX)	PEARL HARBOR
2	LUV TEXT
3	BUHAY KAMAO
4 (DTS ES)	THE REPLICANT

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THX DOLBY dts SDDS

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- ☆ HEAD OVER HEELS
- ☆ DR. T & THE WOMEN
- ☆ GET OVER IT
- ☆ LUV TEXT
- ☆ ACCIDENTAL SPY
- ☆ EVOLUTION

GALLERIA
632-9115-16

- ☆ OPENS JUNE 27, 2001
- ☆ PEARL HARBOR
- ☆ ACCIDENTAL SPY
- ☆ HEAD OVER HEELS
- ☆ EVOLUTION
- ☆ DR. T & THE WOMEN
- ☆ GET OVER IT
- ☆ LUV TEXT
- ☆ THE MUMMY RETURNS
- ☆ EVOLUTION

IMUS
(046) 471-8188

- ☆ PEARL HARBOR
- ☆ ACCIDENTAL SPY
- ☆ LUV TEXT
- ☆ EVOLUTION
- ☆ BUHAY KAMAO
- ☆ KASIBULAN

BACOLOD
(034) 441-0455

- ☆ PEARL HARBOR
- ☆ VALENTINE
- ☆ SUGAR & SPICE
- ☆ GET OVER IT
- ☆ ANTS IN THE PANTS
- ☆ CUTAWAY

DOLBY dts SDDS

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101

ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	BUHAY KAMAO
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	LUV TEXT
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	ACCIDENTAL SPY
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	PEARL HARBOR
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	EVOLUTION
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	DR T & THE WOMEN
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	THE REPLICANT
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	LUV TEXT
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	ACCIDENTAL SPY
FIESTA CARNIVAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
NEW FRONTIER	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

MANILA

EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SA IYONG MGA HAPLOS / BODY SHOCK
ODEON	ACCIDENTAL SPY
ODEON-2	BUHAY KAMAO
ROBEN	KASIBULAN
TANDEM-1	KUNG LILIGAYA KA
TANDEM-2	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
TIMES	3,000 MILES WHAT WOMEN WANTS

QUEZON CITY

ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	KASIBULAN
QUEZON-1	KASIBULAN
REMAR	LUV TEXT
REMAR-2	MAGENTA

CUBAO

OCEAN SUPERAMA	BABAENG PUTIK
OCEAN CINEMA-A	PANABLA
OCEAN CINEMA-B	CRISELDA

MANDALUYONG CITY

SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	SPOT
CINEMA-2	EVOLUTION

CAINTA RIZAL

STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	BUHAY KAMAO
CINEMA-2	KASIBULAN
CINEMA-3	MAGENTA
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	PEARL HARBOR
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	SPOT
CINEMA-6	THE MUMMY RETURNS
CINEMA-7	LUV TEXT
CINEMA-8	THE REPLICANT
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	PEARL HARBOR
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	ACCIDENTAL SPY
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	EVOLUTION
CINEMA-12	HEAD OVER HEELS
CINEMA-14	DR. T & THE WOMEN
CINEMA-15	LUV TEXT

LORES

CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED

POWER PLANT CINEMA

CINEMA-1	HEAD OVER HEELS
CINEMA-2	PEARL HARBOR
CINEMA-3	EVOLUTION
CINEMA-4	DR. T & THE WOMEN
CINEMA-5	ACCIDENTAL SPY
CINEMA-6	EVOLUTION

UNIWIDE METROMALL

(LAS PINAS)	
CINEMA-1	PAY IT FORWARD
CINEMA-2	HIYAS
CINEMA-4	DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT

UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL

(PARANAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	PAY IT FORWARD
CINEMA-2	SA IYONG MGA HAPLOS
CINEMA-4	BUHAY NA MANIKIN

Bernal movies on Cinema One

SKYCABLE's Cinema One commemorates noted film director Ishmael Bernal on the month of his death with a special retrospective of his most celebrated films, June 25 to 30.

The son of two teachers, Bernal had always been interested in the arts, signing up for the documentary outfit of Lamberto Avellana immediately after getting his AB English degree from UP.

Bernal finally came into his own in 1971, as his own blend of social commentaries and bold reflections on the struggle of the Filipino came to life in "Pagdating sa Dulo," a film he wrote and directed.

Up until his passing, Bernal was one of the most passionate and intelligent forces in Filipino culture as a board member of the Concerned Artists of the Philippines and the Directors Guild of the Philippines Inc.

His innovative films sampled by Cinema One retrospective covers all the bases of Bernal's eclectic output.

In 1982's "Relasyon" (June 25), Vilma Santos and Christopher de Leon create acting magic as the embodiment of one of the era's biggest taboos—a woman moving in with her married boyfriend.

The mystic and exotic collide in "Nunal sa Tubig" (June 26), Bernal's meditation on life in a small fishing village struggling to cope with change, with Elizabeth Oropesa, George Estregan and Daria Ramirez.

An amazing array of future stars crowd a messy Manila in "City After Dark" (June 27). Featuring acclaimed performances from Bernardo Bernardo, William Martinez, Cherie Gil, Gina Alajar and Alma Moreno, "City After Dark" is a hot night in the life of the City of Man that gave birth to many controversies on its own.

Vilma and Boyet play another couple at odds in "Broken Marriage" (June 28), but this time, the misery's with the married folks.

Bernal's last film, 1993's "Wating" (June 29) has revelatory performances from Richard Gomez and Carmina Villaroel in this angry look on life in the post-Marcos era.

The award-winning performance of Nora Aunor awaits Cinema One viewers in "Himala," Saturday, June 30, 10 p.m., which also features behind-the-scenes take on the movie.

The Bernal retrospective is another exclusive movie event on Cinema One, available on SkyCable, SunCable, and other quality cable operators nationwide.

LOUIE'S CINEMA

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EVOLUTION
Adventure - Comedy
(PG-13 R.T.-1:50)

Starring:
David Duchovny
Orlando Jones
Seann William Scott
Julianne Moore

June 25 - Monday
6:00 PM - Evolution
8:20 PM - Evolution
10:40 PM - Evolution

Angelina Jolie stars as LARA CROFT in
TOMB RAIDER
opening June 27

Hear the Difference. Feel the Excitement

Very special guest on Cosby's show

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

FROM time to time, Bill Cosby's show, "Kids Say the Darndest Things" (Sundays, 8:30 p.m., RPN-9) features a very special guest: a boy named William Stabile, who is probably the world's youngest "guidance counselor."

Young Will started appearing on the show when he was only 6 years old. He's 8 now, but is as refreshingly spontaneous and witty as ever.

In his special section in the show, title "Ask Will," young Stabile answers questions from members of the studio audience, many of them adults. And his answers never fail to elicit an exuberant reaction from the audience, because they're so on-target and downright funny.

For instance, two Sundays ago, Will and his questioners came up with these deft and daft exchanges:

"Will, please help me, I don't know what to do! My little girl insists on sleeping in our bed every night. My husband and I have lost all of our privacy. Please tell us, what to do to convince our daughter to sleep in her bed!"

"Well, it looks like that's impossible, because she seems to be so insistent on sleeping with you in your bed. The only solution is for you and your husband to sleep in her bed!"

* * *

"Will, my problem is my son—he's so messy, throwing his things all over his room. It looks like a tornado went through it! What can I do to convince him to be more tidy?"

"I could tell you to have a heart-to-heart talk with him, but that never works. So, I guess you'll just have to put up with the mess. Sure, you own the house, but that doesn't matter!"

* * *

"My sister decides on what our whole family can watch on TV—it's so unfair! What can we do to convince her that our choices should count for something, too?"

"That's another hopeless situation. Your sister won't give up her control over the TV set, not after enjoying it all this time. Your best bet to keep the peace in your house is to learn to like what she watches on TV!"

* * *

"What can I do to make my son clean his room? I've tried everything!"

"Give him a reward—in other words, bribe him!"

* * *

"I want to get my 16-year-old daughter a car for her birthday. How much should I spend on it?

"Not much—that way, it won't be so traumatic for you when she crashes it!"

—All this, from an 8-year-old kid! Bill Cosby was so in awe of young Will Stabile's witty answers that he watched rapt in silence as the little master of spontaneous mirth held forth.

Integrated dance concept

THE BRITISH Council and the MCO Foundation are presenting CandoCo, an international touring company from Bristol, England, in special performances on July 25 and 26 at 8 p.m. The dance company will ignite the stage with its concept of integrated dance, putting disabled dancers alongside able-bodied ones.

They will be showcased in two powerful but lyrical pieces that will make viewers cease to notice that some of the performers are on wheelchairs and others have limbs missing.

In celebration of National Disability Rehabilitation and Prevention Month, CandoCo will also interact with other disabled and sensory impaired individuals, as well as local dance teachers, in separate workshops in Manila and Zambales.

Call Susan Arcega at 914-1011 or the MCO Foundation at 818-1403.

Meet Mila Kunis

AT ONLY 16 years of age, Russia-born Mila Kunis has an amazing show biz career. She's one of the stars of the hit TV program, "That '70s Show." She plays the princess in Aerosmith's latest music video, "Jaded." She voices the character of Meg in the animated series, "Family Guy."

In addition, she has appeared in feature films, 10 commercials for Barbie, sitcom spots, a Guess Girls print campaign—and as the young Gia in HBO's TV movie about the mega-model.

Mila can be seen locally on "That '70s Show," which airs every Tuesday at 9 p.m. on ABC-5.

'Cast Away' volleyball bounces into US stores

(From page A32)

For the record, the ball that portrayed Wilson in "Cast Away" is the Wilson AVP Replica Gold, an outdoor beach volleyball.

"After numerous requests from consumers looking to purchase their own Wilson, we've decided to sell the ball at retail," company spokesman Alan Davenport said in a statement.

"The brand exposure we've received from 'Cast Away' has been amazing," he said.

Sly, Stowe star in gangland murder and romance

STALLONE

LOS ANGELES—Italian actor Raoul Bova will star opposite Sylvester Stallone and Madeleine Stowe in "Avenging Angelo," now wrapping production on location in Toronto and Sicily, the Hollywood Reporter says.

In the romantic comedy, Stowe plays a woman who has discovered she is the daughter of Angelo, a major Mafia boss, the Reporter says.

After he is killed by a hit-man (are you laughing yet?), she decides to seek revenge, aided by his bodyguard (Stallone), with whom she falls in love.

Bova plays a handsome writer who comes between the two in the film, which also marks the last work by actor Anthony Quinn, who died this month.

'Moulin Rouge' music tops charts

LOS ANGELES—The music from "Moulin Rouge" featuring Christina Aguilera, Lil' Kim, Mya and Pink has been topping the US charts.

"Music From Baz Luhrmann's Film Moulin Rouge" was number one on Billboard's Hot 100 chart for the fourth week in a row, said Zap2it.com.

The cover of LaBelle's '70s smash disco hit "Lady Marmalade" was the first airplay-only track in history to remain at top spot for more than one week, the website said.

Stars Nicole Kidman and Ewan McGregor make their on-screen and soundtrack singing debuts in the soundtrack, which also features David Bowie, Fatboy Slim, Beck, Massive Attack and Rufus Wainwright.

'Soprano' star's navel to sing in Levi's ad

LOS ANGELES—Actress Jamie-Lynn Sigler, who plays Meadow Soprano in the hit HBO television series "The Sopranos," is lending her voice to a new commercial for Levi's jeans, according to web site Zap2it.com.

Sigler, who plays the daughter of a mobster on the show, will do a version of Diana Ross' hit "I'm Coming Out," in an ad for Levi's Superlow jeans, which features belly buttons singing the song.

Sigler will not appear in the commercial, which features a number of young women sporting the low-slung jeans with their midriffs exposed, Zap2it.com said.

HBO did not say what might happen (accidents, maybe?) to consumers who refuse to buy the jeans..

AFP

GMA 7 . . .

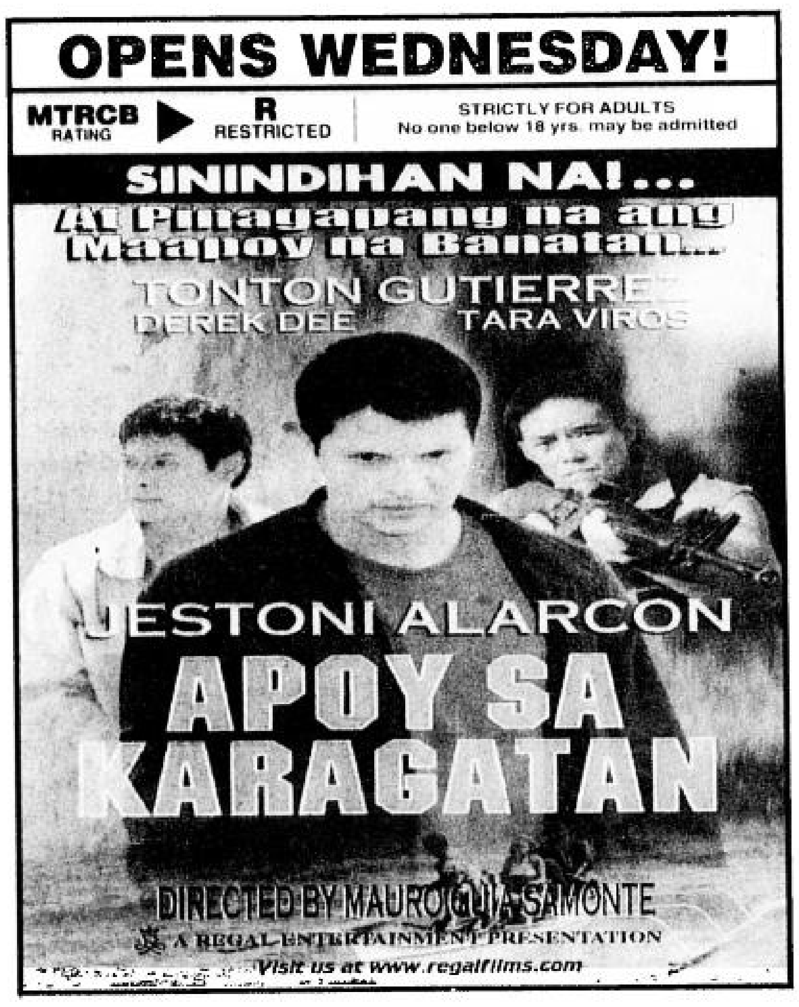
(From page A28)

quest 2" at Onstage in Greenbelt Makati. The concert was aired as a two-part TV special on RPN 9. The second part will be shown on June 29, 10:30 p.m.

Grand re-opening

LAST Saturday, we received a call from **Lyka Ugarte**, who now works for SM Cinemas. Lyka invited us to the grand reopening of SM Cinema at Megamall tomorrow night, which will be highlighted by the special advance screening of **Sylvester Stallone**'s latest film, "Driven."

Lyka is likewise inviting moviegoers to check out the newly renovated SM Megamall Cinemas which are bent on giving Glorieatta 4 and Powerplant theaters a run for their money.



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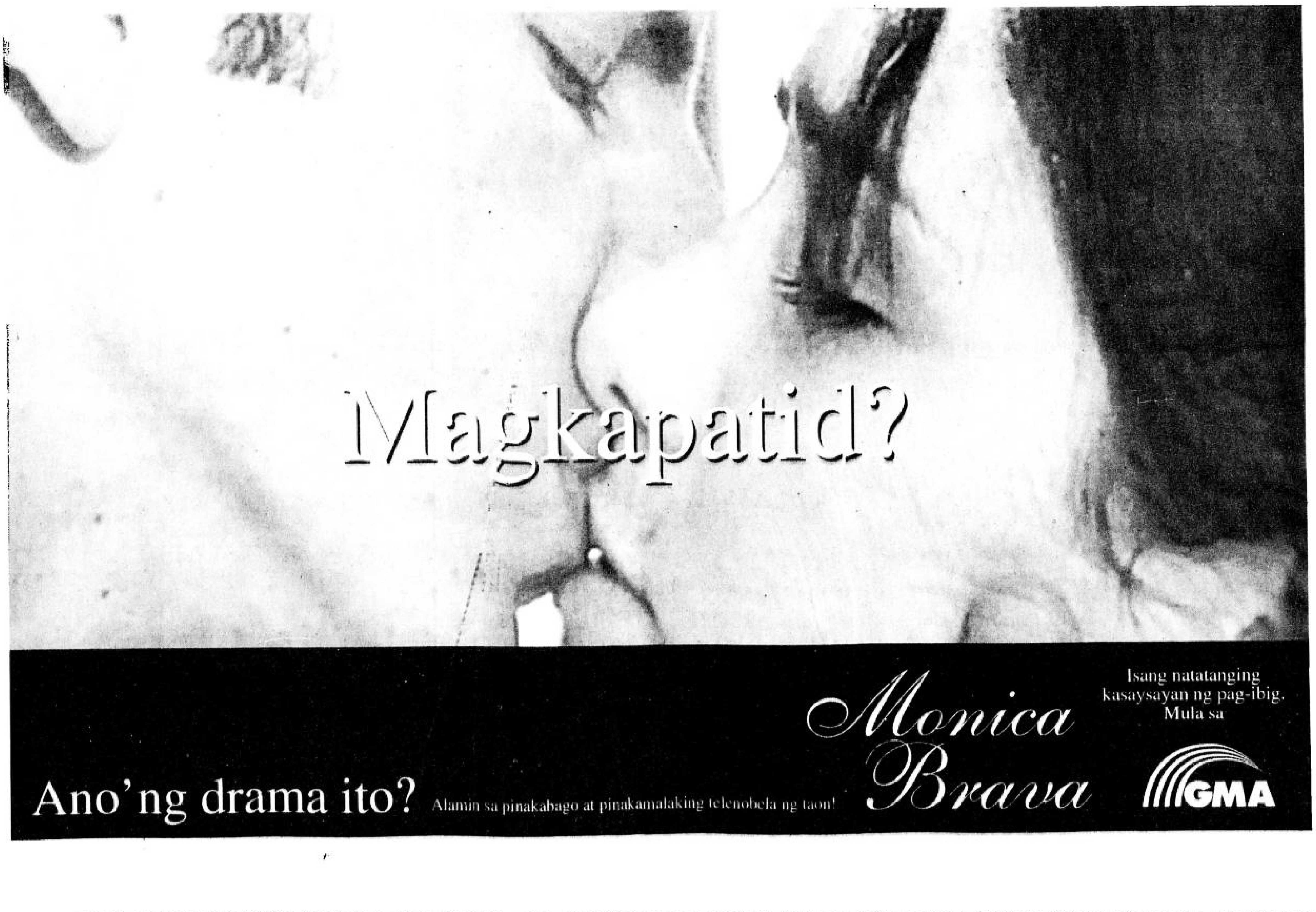

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ENTERTAINMENT

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

'Cast Away' volleyball bounces into US stores

LOS ANGELES—Wilson the volleyball, Tom Hanks' silent co-star in "Cast Away," is riding a wave onto the shelves of sporting-goods stores across the United States, Wilson Sporting Goods said Thursday.

In the movie, Hanks is stranded on an uninhabited island. He discovers the ball and gives it a face and name—Wilson.

Wilson becomes a confidant to which Hanks pours out his heart and soul.

This week the Wilson Volleyball—complete with handprint and face—is being released along with the "Cast Away" DVD and home video, the Chicago-based company said.

CAST AWAY/ A31

KRIS AND TELL

Kris Aquino is out of the country. Her column will resume Wednesday–Ed.

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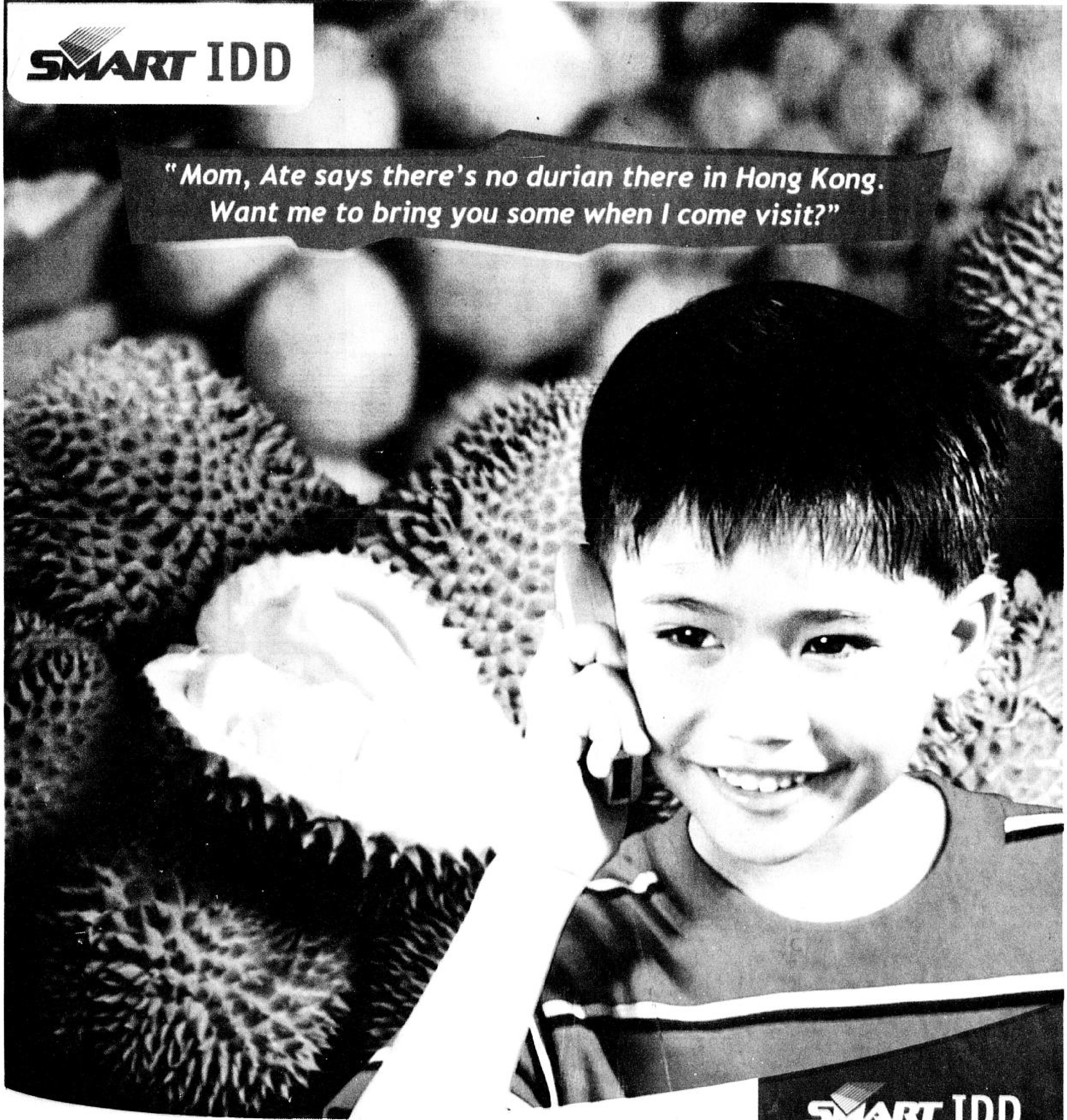
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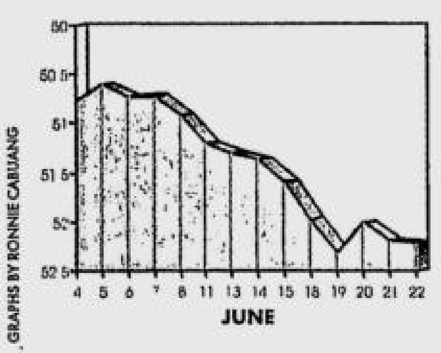

GRAPHS BY RONNIE CABUANG

Peso-Dollar Rate

₱52.21 = $1

As of 5 p.m.,
June 22, 2001

¥124.34 = $1

The US dollar was trading at 124.34 as of 5 p.m.,
June 22, 2001

GOLD:$272.80/273.80

per ounce Hong Kong,
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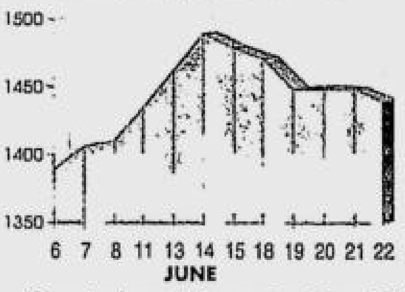

(See stock market report on Page B6)

AFTER succumbing to profit-taking last week, the local stock market is expected to see mixed trading this week in the absence of fresh incentives to sustain the previous rally.

Analysts said the main share Philippine Stock Exchange composite index, which dropped 2.67 percent last week to close at 1,439.77, might find some relief from first-half corporate window-dressing activities as well as a possible cut in the key interest rates of the US Federal Reserve this week.

Although the Fed has cut interest rates five times so far this year, analysts said not everyone appeared convinced that the cuts were enough to stimulate the global economy.

"In a pattern that is becoming all too familiar, the market is moving within a 100 point range of between 1,380 and 1,480. So far, we have seen little lasting commitment from either the buyers or sellers in pushing prices higher or lower," one analyst said.

Bangko Sentral expects peso recovery this week

By Clarissa S. Batino

BUENAVENTURA

BANGKO Sentral Governor Rafael Buenaventura said the peso should make a gradual comeback from 52.21 to $1 last Friday.

The central bank, he said, was already trying to eliminate factors that could have led to the peso's weakness in the last two weeks, including raising the possibility of BSP intervention, stricter monitoring of foreign exchange transactions, and suspending any plans to cut interest rates.

"We didn't like the way the peso depreciated faster than other currencies in the last two weeks, so we started to be concerned," Buenaventura said. Last Friday, the peso closed at 52.21 to $1. The lowest closing last week was Tuesday's 52.32 to $1.

"Given that regional currencies have also weakened, we are hoping the peso would stabilize at these levels or to slightly below 52 this week," the central bank chief added.

He pointed out that compared to other currencies, the peso remained competitive.

On a year-to-date basis, the peso's decline of 4.19 percent was almost at par with the Thai baht's 4.14 percent depreciation and was even softer compared to the Japanese yen's 8.02 percent decline and the Indonesian rupiah's 14.73 percent fall.

The Australian dollar, on a year-to-date basis, also weakened by 7.63 percent, the New Zealand dollar by 7.68 percent, the British pound by 5.7 percent, and the Euro by 9.59 percent.

Buenaventura said that while the recent peso weakness had slowed down dollar remittances from exports and overseas contract workers, there had been no signs of capital flight.

Neither were Binondo-based traders speculating against the peso since the black market only offered a premium of 5 to 10 centavos to $1 over the Philippine Dealing System rate, he noted.

"It really was just the demand from (corporations) aggravated by the bad news which some market players used to take positions. So there was a slight liquidity problem," the central bank chief explained.

He acknowledged that local peace-and-order problems, particularly the spate of kidnappings that followed the Abu Sayyaf hostage crisis, had put pressure on the currency. But the problems were used by some traders "to churn and hedge," he said.

This was the reason why Buenaventura issued a reminder to the public last Friday that the peso could just as easily recover as fast as it depreciated in the last two weeks.

He said the threat of the Bangko Sentral coming in in a big way to sell dollars eliminated what he called a "one-way bet," referring to the mindset that the local currency would continue to fall against the greenback. "We could always intervene if necessary and we said we could tighten the monitoring of their transactions."

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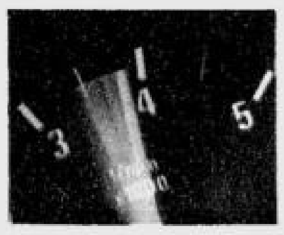

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American bank tightens rules on deals with local lenders

By Clarissa S. Batino

US-BASED First Union Bank of Delaware has informed 12 local banks, including the country's largest Bank of the Philippine Islands, that it would impose more stringent requirements in processing transactions while the country remained on the money-laundering watchlist.

As a result, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas would try to speed up the implementation of a waiver for dollar deposits, particularly of foreign nationals so these could be subjected to scrutiny by foreign lenders.

Bangko Sentral Deputy Governor Alberto Reyes said the central bank and the Bankers Association of the Philippines were rushing the format of the waiver so that a memorandum of agreement could be sealed within the next two weeks.

"First Union Bank of Delaware has notified 12 local banks that it would start asking for more information on the identity of the depositor and the nature of the transaction," Reyes said.

Reyes said foreign counterparts started to apply stringent rules on Philippine accounts during the impeachment trial against former President Estrada late last year and the pressure, he said, was expected to grow stronger.

The Bangko Sentral official said some correspondent banks even suspected some accounts to belong to Latin-American drug traffickers. "Some names, because of our Hispanized surnames, were similar to those of Columbian drug lords," he noted.

One account was suspected to have connections with terrorist activities since it bore the address of the Iranian Embassy in Manila.

Reyes said such was the kind of scrutiny that foreign correspondent banks were already subjecting local accounts to because of the perceived weak laws against money laundering in the country.

The Philippines was retained by the Paris-based Financial Action Task Force as well as by the United States in their list of countries "uncooperative" when it comes to money laundering.

"If the pressure intensifies, our foreign transactions would take longer, they would require more documents and eventually, it would become more expensive for our local banks," the Bangko Sentral official said.

The growing pressure, Reyes said, was the reason why the government would put together an omnibus anti-laundering bill to tackle measures against fraud and racketeering as well as ease the country's strict deposit secrecy law.

A lack of a solid legislation against money laundering aggravated by a case of local laundering during the "Juetengate" scandal was the reason why the country remains in the list of countries considered notorious when it comes to enforcing anti-laundering measures.

The new bill being prepared, Reyes said, would consolidate all measures against money laundering including a provision to ease secrecy on deposits worth P50 million and above.

This item was inserted in the amendments to the Central Bank Act that remain pending in Congress but Reyes said it would have to be tackled by the omnibus bill.

The Financial Action Task Force was created in 1989 by the Group of Seven, the leading industrial countries in the world, to monitor the movement of funds from drug cartels, mafia barons, and other shady sources that are being recycled through banks and investment institutions.

While international groups have recognized the effort of the BSP in instituting administrative anti-laundering measures, the FATF, in particular, needed to see laws being passed specially on anti-racketeering and anti-drug trafficking, and the easing of bank secrecy laws.

Under RA 1405, all bank deposits were considered absolutely confidential and may not be examined by any person of government office without a court order.

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HSBC chief executive officer Paul Lawrence (right) and World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF-Philippines) vice chair Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala exchange notes after signing a memorandum of agreement for a P2-million dugong conservation program in Green Island Bay, Palawan, one of the most significant habitats for the endangered marine mammal in the country. To generate awareness for dugong conservation efforts, HSBC recently launched the Dugong Collectibles, 10 cuddly dugong characters, in the "Hug Me, Save Me" campaign.

Gov't reports 90% jump in investments

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

INVESTMENTS registered with the Board of Investments and the Philippine Economic Zone Authority nearly doubled in the first six months this year but the bulk of these projects were made before the wave of kidnapping and criminality started in May this year.

Based on a report by the Department of Trade and Industry, investments approved by the BOI and Peza reached P51.01 billion from January to mid-June this year, up 90 percent from P26.81 billion during the same period last year.

The BOI saw its project approvals soar by 203 percent to P31.34 billion in the first six months this year from P10.26 billion a year ago. The BOI approved 83 projects that are expected to generate 11,938 new jobs. The top two projects approved by the BOI were capital-intensive projects in telecommunications (Smart Communications' P17.1-billion venture) and mining (Rapu-Rapu Processing Inc.'s P2.747 billion undertaking).

Peza investments rose 19 percent to P19.76 billion in the first six months this year from P16.54 billion a year ago. The Peza-approved 196 projects are expected to create 33,286 new jobs.

While the BOI—which posted its lowest investment haul in 12 years in 2000—is poised to surpass its modest P50-billion investment target, the Peza is way behind its goal of P88.87 billion worth of investments this year, up by 20 percent from 2000.

But while investments have rebounded since President Macapagal took over Malacañang in January, investor euphoria quickly fizzled initially due to political concerns and recently due to the resurgence of the Abu Sayyaf menace and the kidnapping syndicates.

Trade Secretary Manuel "Mar" Roxas II admitted that the growing security problem in the country as seen from the kidnappings of local and foreign businessmen and their kin in Metro Manila has been a major investor concern.

PNOC-EC power project seen 'marginally viable'

By Ronnel W. Domingo

PNOC Exploration Co.'s proposed integrated coal minemouth power plant project is "marginally viable."

This was the result of a recent feasibility study made by the Japanese Consulting Insitute.

PNOC-EC president Rufino Bomasang said last week the original plan aimed for a 150-megawatt power plant near an open-pit coal mine in Isabela province.

"Now we are looking at anywhere between 15-50 mw," he said in a press briefing.

He said this meant higher unit cost, which makes the project "not very attractive."

However, Bomasang said the study estimated that the project would yield a rate of return at about 10 percent.

"This makes it a very good candidate for soft loan financing, that is why Japan is interested," he said.

The official explained that if the project had a higher rate of financial viability, it might require the state firm to borrow from big commercial banks.

"This is the kind of project for which (the Japanese) are willing to lend money," he added.

But Bomasang said PNOC-EC was reviewing the consulting firm's findings "to check if their assumptions are reasonable or not."

"If we are convinced, then we will move forward and hopefully bring in partners to finance the power plant," he said.

Earlier, he said a foreign partner was necessary since building the generator would need about $50 million.

According to PNOC-EC's latest study, its concession block in Cauayan, Isabela, had a coal reserve of 28.3 million metric tons.

Bomasang said the coal mine could support a power plant with a capacity of as much as 150 mw.

However, a smaller generator could allow for the soonest implementation of the project.

PNOC-EC has signed a memorandum of understanding with the Isabela-1 Electric Cooperative that "may lead to a power purchase agreement." Iselco 1 has a peak power demand of 35 mw.

The state firm is also pursuing similar negotiations with other local cooperatives such as Iselco 2, Nueva Vizcaya Electric Cooperative and Cagayan Electric Cooperative.

Bomasang also said the integrated coal project intended to demonstrate the use of clean coal technology.

Group disputes Philcomsat claim on property deal

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE GROUP of former Presidential Commission on Good Government representative Ronaldo Salonga and businessman Manuel Nieto claimed that Philippine Communications Satellite Corp. enjoyed a steep 67-percent discount when it forged a property deal worth nearly P1 billion with Ansear Realty Development Corp. last year.

The Salonga-Nieto group issued the rebuttal to dispute a criminal case filed by Philcomsat legal assistant Samuel D. Divina with the Department of Justice which alleged that the transaction was grossly disadvantageous to the company, carried out without the mandatory corporate approvals, and tainted with conflict of interest.

The group claimed that Divina was not even an employee of Philcomsat. Aside from Salonga and Nieto, the respondents to Divina's suit were Benito Araneta, former corporate secretary Luis Lokin Jr., and Lourdes Africa.

The Salonga-Nieto group claimed that they approved the deal during Philcomsat's executive committee on July 3 last year because the 6.5-hectare property was being offered at P11,500 per square meter compared to the appraised value of P35,000 per square meter of the adjacent lots. The group described the property as "strategically located at the heart of the Alabang business district and adjacent to the Madrigal Business Park" which was an ideal site for Philcomsat's future corporate headquarters.

The group insisted that the approval was "a sound business judgment" which was thoroughly reviewed by the executive committee as early as May last year. The Presidential Management Staff during the Estrada administration also cleared the deal.

It also noted that the five members of the executive committee were part of the nine-member board. The group decided to effect the deal through a property-share swap and merger to enhance shareholders value.

The Salonga-Nieto group also defended the release of a total of P390 million—P265 million from Philcomsat and P125 million from its subsidiary Philcomsat Holdings Corp.—to Ansear which Divina claimed were cash advances and were not approved by the board.

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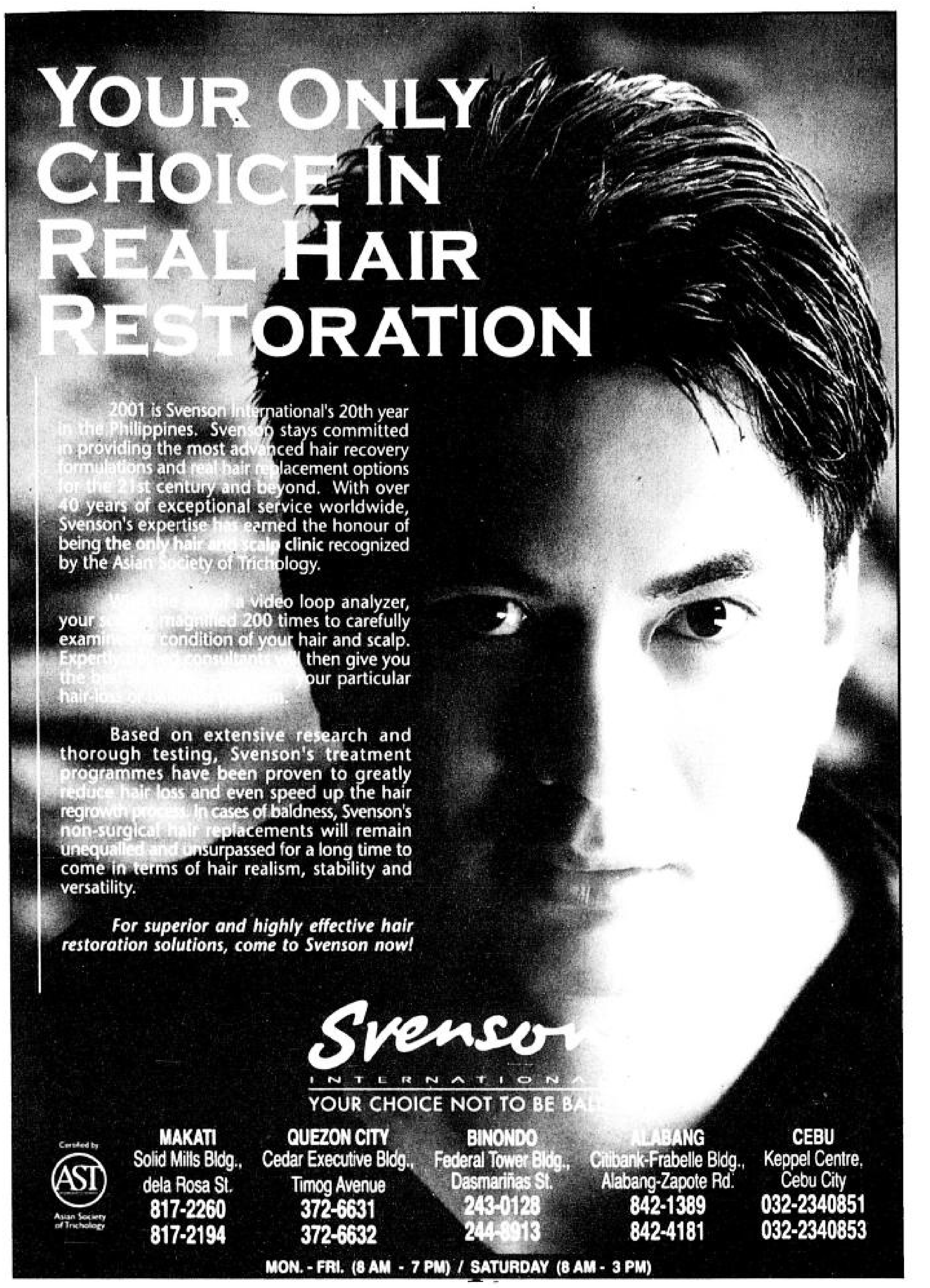

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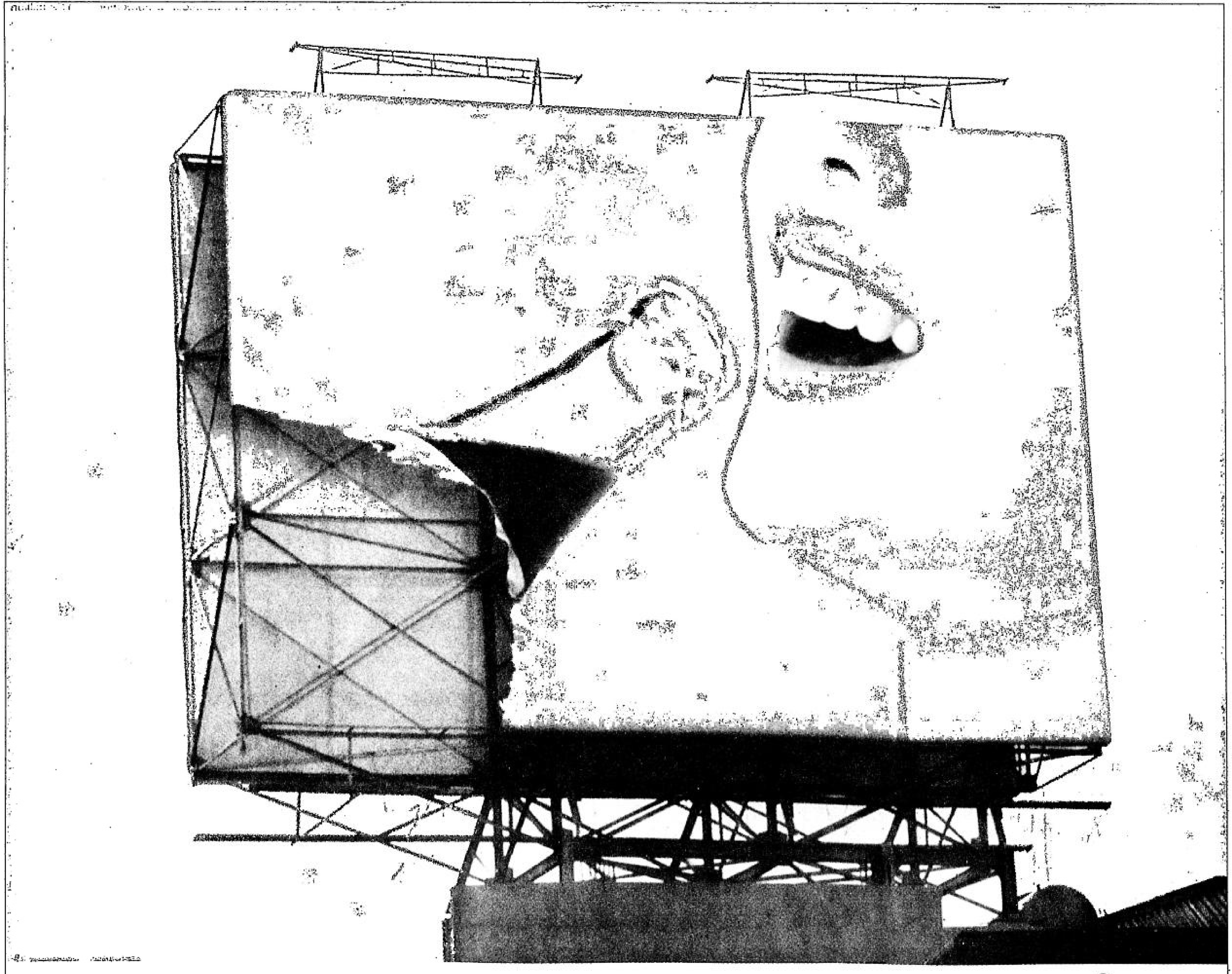

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Economic sabotage

ON THE MONEY

John Mangun

THE BUSINESS section headline of one newspaper last week made me realize that apparently, the government has no specific economic plan or strategies, good or bad. The newspaper read, "Peso freefall due to Abu hostage crisis, says GMA." That was the day after the peso closed above 52 to the dollar. In fairness to the President, she actually said the crisis was a "contributory factor," not the total cause. She went on to cite a general weakness of regional currencies, among other factors.

However, the disturbing thing for me was her conclusion. The President "expressed confidence that the peso would stabilize as soon as the market reacts favorably to her administration's determination to succeed in resolving the hostage crisis."

Everything the President said makes sense.

Nevertheless, the hostage crisis creates a political problem. A devaluating peso creates an economic problem. The defect with the reasoning of our elected officials is that they confuse "cause" with "solution," primarily when it regard the economy. That is the problem of most economists; they are rarely practical or pragmatic. In the case of the peso, let us assume the "cause" is the hostage crisis. So, by the administration's way of thinking, remove the "cause" and you have the "solution" to the economic problem. I do not believe that makes sense. It is like the doctor telling you that you have lung cancer, "caused" by smoking cigarettes. So, you stop smoking. But the problem that has been created does not go away. The "solution" to the problem is medical treatment, totally unrelated to the "cause."

Look at the problems in Mindanao. The "cause" may be rooted in decades or even centuries of poor relations between Muslim and Christian Filipinos. Moreover, those relations need to be made more harmonious. However, the administration's immediate "solution" to the hostage crisis is a military action that is in no way related to the "cause" of the problem.

When confronted with a problem, the average person knows exactly what to do. Fix it first, and then figure out what caused the problem so that it does not happen again. If your house is burning, you put the fire out. Then you find out what went wrong. Why doesn't government conduct itself the same reasonable, logical way? With the tension in the currency markets, the situation could get out of control too easily.

Even now the problem is extremely serious. At 52 to the dollar, several large publicly traded companies are technically bankrupt and insolvent. Above 50 to the dollar, the value of their dollar loans in pesos is larger than the peso worth of the company. We do not have the time or resources to wait for the "cause" to be solved. We need the problem solved. This economy vitally needs some direct action regarding the peso and little appears to be being done. Drastic situations sometimes require dramatic solutions. That is what Malaysia did when they fixed the exchange rate of the ringgit to the dollar three years ago.

Not that it will do any good because I do not think anyone in government listens, I will share with you my "solution" to the problem. The following is part of an outline for a paper I prepared for a government official in a previous administration.

1) Immediately suspend operation of the Philippine Dealing System. All peso-dollar transactions must be made directly to and from the Bangko Sentral.

Peso-dollar rate should be fixed two times a day rather than in a negotiated market in real time as is the case now. This will reduce speculation in the currency. BSP will now be able to more closely monitor the size of the transactions and be able to anticipate dollar requirements and react with a proper price. They will be able to make a proper decision to let market forces determine price or to intervene and set a "better" price.

2) A modified version of a Monetary Board should be established. If dollars are purchased, the amount of pesos used to buy those dollars is removed from the system. This will check any potential inflation from too many pesos in the system.

3) Require that all dollar remittances of OFWs be immediately converted to pesos and deposited and the dollars deposited with the BSP.

4) Severely restrict the amount of dollars that can physically be held by the banks.

5) Severely restrict the amount of dollars that can physically be held by other entities such as moneychangers.

Having stated my "solutions" let me remind you of something. I wrote these same ideas in this column on Oct. 30 of last year. The peso had closed at 51 to the dollar the previous Friday. What is fascinating is the following news report from AFX on Oct. 31. "The peso weakened further against the dollar in early light trade on negative reaction to President Joseph Estrada's speech last night. Estrada said he agrees with Vice President Gloria Arroyo's assessment that the peso's fall is "due to a lack of political confidence rather than to particular monetary policies."

The peso is the same where it was eight months ago.

The rhetoric is the same. There are no new economic plans or strategies. And we have the same old nonsense: "Fix the politics and you fix the economy." It is not true. It does not work. But it is much easier to put the blame for economic problems on politics rather than working to come up with reasonable economic solutions. The longer the government avoids its economic responsibilities to the nation, the more the situation is going to deteriorate. Maybe things will change when gasoline is P30 a liter and a kilo can of powered milk costs 500 bucks. But I fear I will be able to use this column again this Oct. 30. *(John Mangun can be reached at 636-1121 to 35, Fax Number 634-2349 or e-mail at johnmangun@yahoo.com.)*

Group . . .

(From page B3)

The group said this was not a "simple cash payment for the property but an accommodation made by Philcomsat to effect the increase in Ansear's capital stock to implement the property-share swap."

The group said Ansear's Antonio Araneta issued an interest bearing promissory note and executed a deed of real estate mortgage in favor of Philcomsat over five parcels of land for the initial disbursement of P265 million.

On Divina's allegations of conflict of interest, the group said Benito Araneta (a first cousin of Antonio Araneta) inhibited himself during the deliberations on the project.

The Salonga-Nieto group claimed Divina's complaint was "the latest harassment attempt by the bogus Philcomsat board led by Carmelo Africa Jr."

Coke sees ₱5-B profit in 2002

By Doris C. Dumlao

FOOD and beverage giant San Miguel Corp. expects its newly acquired soft-drink unit Coca Cola Bottlers Philippines Inc. to chalk up a net profit of P1 billion this year and further rake in P5 billion next year.

In an interview with the INQUIRER, a high-ranking SMC official said the operations of CCBPI had dramatically improved since the conglomerate regained control of the company in March this year. "This is due to volume growth and significant cost reduction because the integration with SMC lowered the capital expenditures," the official said.

With the huge potentials of the Cola Cola brand now that it was back under SMC's stewardship, the official stressed that there was no need for SMC to pursue the acquisition of other local soft drink brands. The official admitted, however, that SMC was earlier keen on Cosmos Bottling Corp., the fast growing soft-drink unit of RFM Corp. and the second biggest soft-drink bottler in the country next to CCBPI.

"We looked at it but we think they're not that hot. We'll be very happy, in fact, if Pepsi gets them," the official said.

The INQUIRER reported on Friday that RFM Corp. was now seriously considering to get US-based PepsiCo Inc. as a strategic investor in Cosmos. The expectation was that Cosmos would later on be used to launch a takeover bid for the local Pepsi licensee Pepsi Cola Products Philippines Inc., which had failed to get significant headway against CCBPI through the years.

In the first half of the year, the official said there were indications that CCBPI's profits would already hit P500 million. Conservatively assuming that the bottler would generate, at the minimum, the same volume seen in the first semester, he said CCBPI would thus post P1 billion in profits by year's end.

"CCBPI will post very good profits. It will be able to cover from A to Z the soft drink business that we want and we will concentrate on it," the official said.

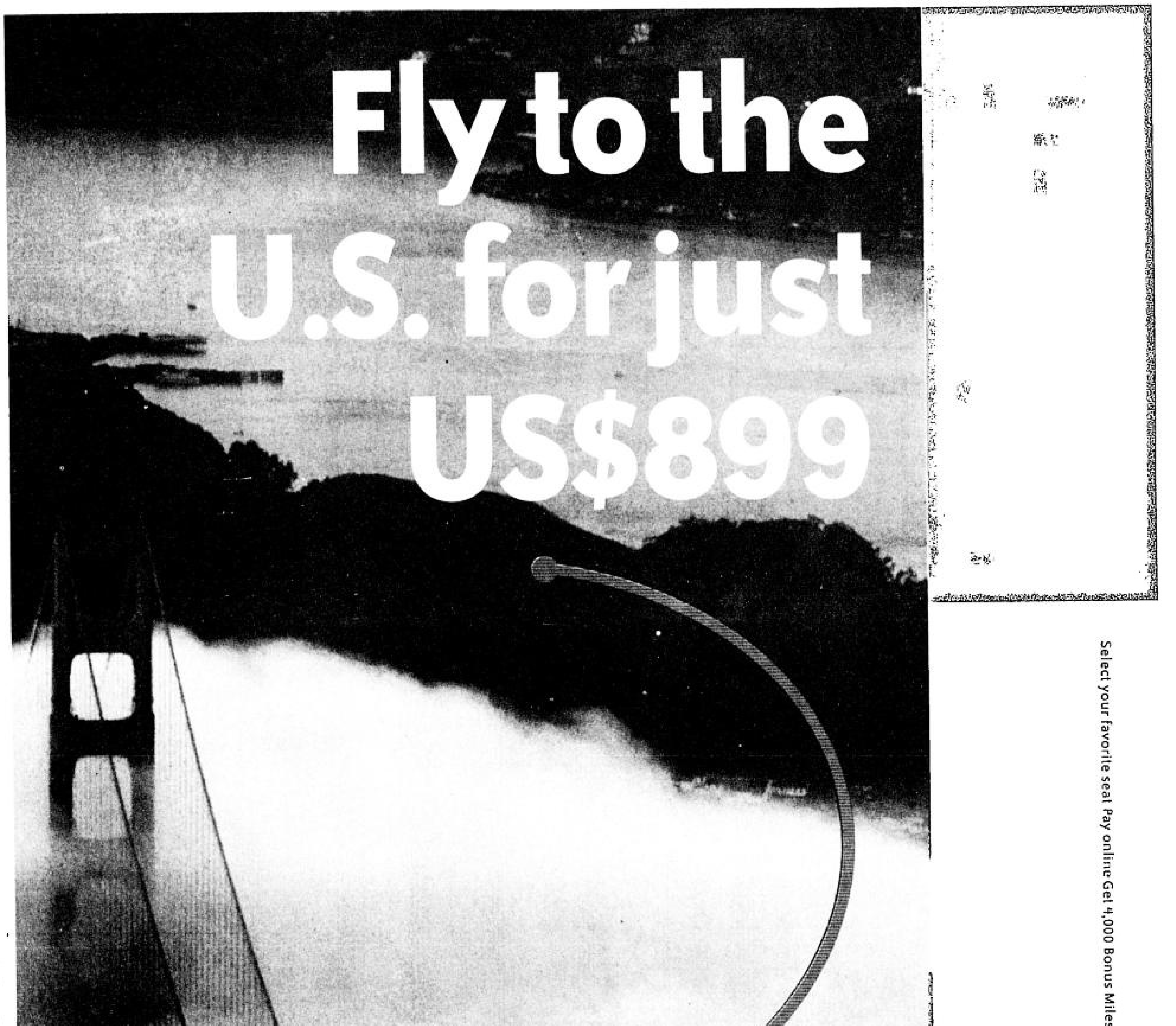
"Next year will be even better and profits will hit P5 billion, around 500 percent increase from this year," the official said.

The official explained that the P5-billion bottomline expected for next year was for only the bottling operations of Coca Cola alone and still would not include the other non-alcoholic businesses transferred from LTDI such as those of Sugarland Beverage Corp. and Metro Bottled Water Co.

Earlier this year, SMC had said CCBPI, which recorded revenue of P28 billion last year, would account for 30 percent of the conglomerate's total income this year.

SMC aims to bolster Coke's operations, which stood as the eighth largest soft drink business worldwide, to recapture its previous market share of 80 percent from the current 65 to 70 percent.

Before San Miguel sold its stake in CCBPI through a share-swap deal in June 1997, the local soft drink firm enjoyed a market share of 80 percent. The conglomerate regained control of CCBPI from Coca Cola Amatil of Australia in a $1.1-billion deal concluded last March. SMC obtained 65 percent of CCBPI with the remaining 35 percent to be taken up by Atlanta-based The Coca-Cola Co.



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US rate cut seen giving local stocks some relief

By Doris C. Dumlao

AFTER succumbing to profit-taking last week, the local stock market is expected to see mixed trading this week in the absence of fresh incentives to sustain the previous rally.

Analysts said the main share Philippine Stock Exchange composite index, which dropped 2.67 percent last week to close at 1,439.77, might find some relief from quarter-end corporate window-dressing activities as well as a possible cut in key interest rates of the US Federal Reserve this week.

MARKET PLAY

Although the Fed has cut interest rates five times so far this year, AB Capital Securities analyst Jose Vistan said not everyone was convinced that this was enough to stimulate the global economy. He said most investors were banking on another rate cut of 25 to 50 basis points.

"In a pattern that is becoming all too familiar, the market is moving within a 100-point range of between 1,380 and 1,480. So far, we have seen little lasting commitment from either the buyers or sellers in pushing prices higher or lower," Vistan said.

Vistan said the market's malaise might continue for the next couple of weeks. Although first-half window dressing and a US rate cut might provide some breather, he said it would take much more to permanently lift the market from the doldrums.

"On the brighter side, the market seems to have already factored in all the possible negative factors that could be conceived. The 1,380 level has been holding as investors are looking at all the troubles on one hand and looking down the road on the other. If such is indeed the case, then investors will be easily swayed by the slightest hint of good news," he said.

Wellex Global Equities analyst James Lago said he believed the market was still in a consolidation phase.

"For as long as the peso is sharply depreciating, investors will just watch on the sidelines," Lago said. "The situation is fluid and suddenly the peso is reflecting a lot of short-term economic weaknesses."

Last week, the local currency slid back to the 52 level against the US dollar.

"As long as the index holds above 1,400, it is still safe. However, for the past several weeks despite the rally seen two weeks ago, it is still in danger of hitting the 1,370 support level. The downside has been there despite the phenomenal rise of International Container Services Terminal Inc., Cosmos Bottling Corp., Petron Corp. and Benpres Holdings," Lago said.

BPI securities analyst Spencer Yap said contributing to the weakness of the main index last week was the focus on speculative issues which were not included in the Phisix.

Among the target of speculative play among local investors in recent days were Atok Big Wedge Co. Inc., Itogon-Suyoc Mines Inc. and Island Mining & Industrial Corp. Second-line stocks with stories to tell such as Cosmos and ICTSI were likewise among the favorite plays.

Philippine Stock Exchange

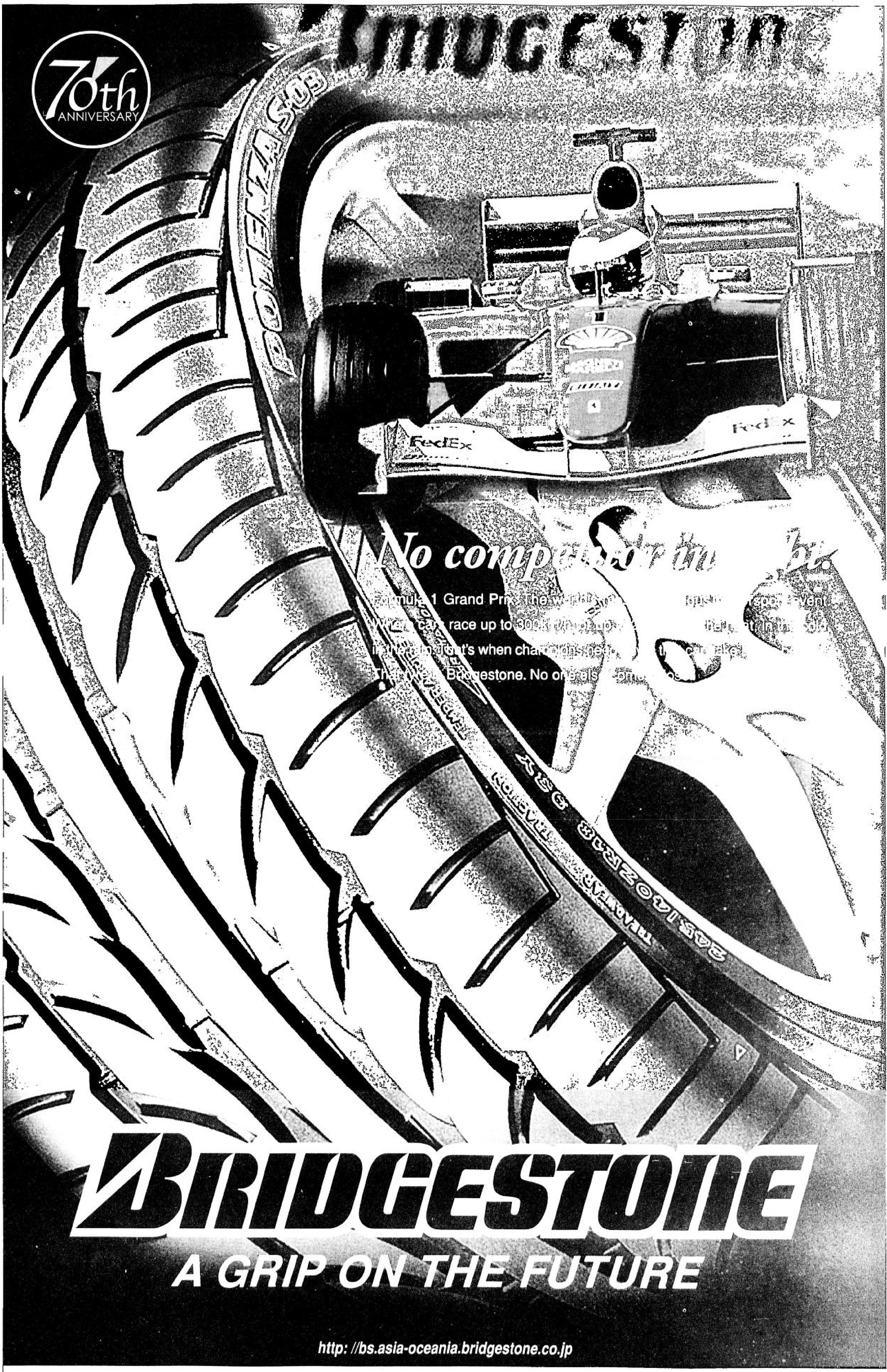
(As of Friday, June 22, 2001)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Bank of the Phil. Islands	75	75	74	74	49,300
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	37.5	38.5	37.5	38.5	38,400
First E-Bank Corp.	1.8	1.8	1.78	1.78	20,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	217	217	215	216	203,940
Philippine National Bank	46	46	45	45	29,300
Phil. Savings Bank	29	30	29	30	11,100
Union Bank of the Phil.	26	27	26	27	98,900
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Bankard Inc.	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	109,000
First Metro Invest. Corp.	231	244	231	244	360
Manulife Financial Corp.	1375	1410	1375	1410	14,250
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1150	1175	1150	1175	23,190
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	40	40.5	40	40.5	23,600
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.54	0.54	0.51	0.51	1,510,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	670	690	670	680	1,800
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.04	0.04	0.039	0.039	700,000
Piltel	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	160,000
Philstar.Com Inc.	1	1	1	1	5,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	710	715	705	710	133,800
Ivantage Corp.	0.8	0.82	0.8	0.82	700,000
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.038	0.039	0.037	0.038	51,700,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	39.5	39.5	39	39	12,700
Manila Electric Co. B	55.5	55.5	55	55	81,100
Petron Corp.	2.16	2.18	2.14	2.18	3,765,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	10,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.18	1.18	1.1	1.1	99,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.55	2.55	2.3	2.32	19,969,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc	0.47	0.49	0.47	0.49	150,000
Negros Navigation Co. Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	30,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.36	0.37	0.36	0.37	120,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.2	1.3	1.2	1.3	256,000
Union Cement Corp.	1.22	1.22	1.2	1.2	1,440,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.06	2.12	2.06	2.1	58,000
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	5.3	5.3	4.65	4.65	3,238,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13.5	13.75	13.5	13.75	84,400
La Tondena Distillers Inc.	26.5	27	26.5	27	21,000
RFM Corp.	1.66	1.66	1.42	1.42	6,169,000
San Miguel Corp. A	42.5	43	42.5	43	33,000
San Miguel Corp. B	48	48	47.5	48	487,600
Vitarich Corp.	0.35	0.5	0.35	0.5	150,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Atok-Big Wedge Co. Inc.	7	7.4	7	7.4	5,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.78	0.78	0.78	0.78	10,000
Ayala Corp.	7.1	7.1	7	7.1	855,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	1.46	1.46	1.44	1.46	459,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.9	0.94	0.9	0.94	1,010,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.52	0.53	0.52	0.53	780,000
APC Group Inc.	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	200,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	26,000,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	40,000
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.24	0.24	670,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.72	1.72	1.68	1.7	3,224,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.14	0.14	520,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	1,340,000
Fil-Estate Corp.	0.51	0.51	0.51	0.51	10,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.06	1.08	1.06	1.08	130,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp	26	26.5	26	26.5	173,500
Global Equities Inc.	0.22	0.24	0.22	0.22	2,030,000
Guoco Holdings (Phils.)	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	20,000
House of Investments Inc.	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	2,940,000
Ionics Inc.	11.25	11.25	11	11	12,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	2.12	2.12	2.12	2.12	100,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.48	1.48	1.48	1.48	20,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. B	0.017	0.017	0.016	0.016	1,000,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.77	0.77	0.76	0.76	2,000,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.29	0.3	0.29	0.3	1,590,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.48	0.48	0.48	0.48	520,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.52	0.53	0.52	0.52	1,320,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.27	0.29	0.27	0.29	1,020,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	10,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.24	0.25	0.23	0.25	220,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Interphil Labs Inc. A	1.16	1.16	1.16	1.16	10,000
Metro Alliance Holdings	0.5	0.55	0.42	0.51	430,000
Music Corp.	2.12	2.12	2.06	2.06	111,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.67	0.69	0.67	0.67	370,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.095	0.095	0.095	0.095	200,000
Reynolds Philippine Corp.	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	20,000
Central Azucar Don Pedro	0.87	0.87	0.87	0.87	100,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	15.75	15.75	15.5	15.5	58,100
Steniel Manufacturing	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	40,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.46	0.46	1,280,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.55	0.62	0.54	0.57	9,900,000
Philippine Racing Club	5	5.1	5	5.1	7,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	40	41.5	40	41	16,019,300
DMCI Holdings Inc.- Pref.	495	495	495	495	620
Globe Telecom Hldg (Pdr)	680	680	680	680	100
Omico Corp. Warrant	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	151,000,000
RFM Corp. - Pref.	3.45	3.5	3.45	3.5	266,000
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.5	10.5	10.25	10.25	1,900
Philweb.Com Inc. -Warrants	0.029	0.03	0.028	0.029	31,700,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.5	5.6	5.4	5.5	4,063,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.39	0.39	0.39	0.39	120,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.29	0.3	0.28	0.28	3,300,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	1,110,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	1,110,000
Edsa Prop. Holdings Inc.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	10,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	2.22	2.22	2.2	2.22	1,232,000
City & Land Developers	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3	11,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.26	0.26	700,000
Mrc Allied Ind. Inc.	0.24	0.24	0.2	0.23	3,020,000
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.12	0.12	0.11	0.115	350,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.5	6.6	6.5	6.5	1,836,000
Universal Rightfield Prop	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.08	300,000
Zipporah Rlty Hldgs Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	45,850,000
MINING					
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0046	0.0046	0.0046	0.0046	1,000,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	1.72	1.8	1.72	1.8	13,000
Itogon-Suyoc Mines A	0.06	0.0725	0.06	0.0675	282,600,000
Itogon-Suyoc Mines B	0.0625	0.0725	0.0625	0.0675	36,100,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	200,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.0065	0.0065	0.006	0.006	14,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	83,000,000
Omico Corporation	0.004	0.004	0.004	0.004	18,000,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.02	0.021	0.018	0.018	43,900,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.38	0.39	0.35	0.35	1,700,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.4	0.41	0.37	0.37	4,000,000
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	300,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.022	0.022	0.018	0.018	15,900,000
Interport Res.	0.005	0.005	0.005	0.005	12,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	38,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	1,000,000
Pacifica	0.017	0.017	0.016	0.016	11,800,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	500,000
South China Resources Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	20,000

CURRENCIES

June 22, 2001

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.168907	1.000000	52.1010
Japan	Yen	0.009384	0.008028	0.4183
United Kingdom	Pound	1.654588	1.415500	73.7490
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.150053	0.128370	6.6882
Switzerland	Franc	0.657613	0.562588	29.3114
Canada	Dollar	0.767301	0.656426	34.2005
Singapore	Dollar	0.641728	0.548998	28.6033
Australia	Dollar	0.605652	0.518135	26.9954
Bahrain	Dinar	3.100714	2.652661	138.2063
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.311709	0.266667	13.8936
Brunei	Dollar	0.640146	0.547645	28.5329
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000103	0.000088	0.0046
Thailand	Baht	0.025861	0.022124	1.1527
UAE	Dirham	0.318330	0.272331	14.1887
Korea	Won	0.000899	0.000769	0.0401
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.855500	44.5724
Germany	Mark	0.511292	0.43741	22.7895
France	Franc	0.152450	0.130420	6.7950
Netherlands	Guilder	0.453780	0.388209	20.2261
Austria	Schilling	0.072673	0.062172	3.2392
Belgium	Franc	0.024789	0.021207	1.1049
Italy	Lire	0.000517	0.000442	0.0230
Finland	Markka	0.168188	0.143885	7.4966
Portugal	Escudo	0.004988	0.004267	0.2223
Spain	Peseta	0.006011	0.005142	0.2679
Luxemburg	Franc	0.024789	0.021207	1.1049
Ireland	Punt	1.269738	1.086261	56.5953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BSP urges banks to cut lending rates

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas has asked banks to further reduce their lending rates by one to two percentage points to encourage people to start borrowing and help spur economic growth.

BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura said that the banks' lending rates were not low enough to encourage borrowings.

On the average, non-prime lending rates are set at about three to four percentage points over the 91-day treasury bill rate, he told reporters.

The benchmark 91-day treasury bill rate stood at 8.653 percent last week. Traders believed it could go up by 5 basis points today following the central bank's announcement that it would not cut its rates this week even if the US Federal Reserve would reduce its rate half-a-percentage point.

"With the market's excess liquidity, lending rates should go down further. Banks should charge not more than 4 percentage points over 91-day T-bill rate," said the central bank chief.

On the average, banks charge 14 to 15 percent although mid-sized lenders were reportedly charging more than 17 percent as of last Friday.

Foreign banks Chinatrust, Dao Heng, ING Bank and Internal Bank of China and big local lenders China Banking Corp. and Philippine National Bank charge more than 15 percent.

Compared to the week-ago level, banks have reduced their rates Friday by an average of 10 basis points, BSP data showed.

The big drop in the lending rates from as much as 35 percent last year for non-prime clients to the current levels still failed to encourage borrowing. Buenaventura admitted this was because of the slow economic activity in the country.

For big corporate clients, banks grant the so-called super prime rates which are almost at par with treasury bill rates.

"Prime clients get loans at rates that are only about 1.5 percentage points over T-bill rates," he said.

Banks price their loans based on the 91-day treasury bill rate which, in turn, tracks the movement of the central bank's overnight rates.

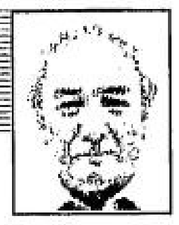
Buenaventura said the BSP had ruled out rate cuts this month but said that a reduction in its borrowing and lending rates was still possible in the coming months.

"We are not saying we are ruling it out forever. If the peso improves and the threat to inflation is reduced, maybe we could bring down further our overnight rates," he said.

The central bank chief pointed out that the 91-day bill rate last week was already lower than the BSP's [illegible] percent overnight borrowing rate.

PDIC's terrible conflict of interest

Questions of Policies



Honesto C. General

WHEN you keep your savings in a bank, you can sleep soundly every night with the thought that the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp. insures the money. If the bank happens to collapse, PDIC hands you a check equal to the deposit you lost, up to P100,000. Recently, however, PDIC made certain investments that could be a nightmare to every depositor.

Last Oct. 6, PDIC granted the Philippine National Bank a P10-billion liquidity loan. (At the main bar of my club, a liquidity loan is when someone treats another to a mug of beer). In a letter to me last November, PDIC president and chief executive officer Norberto C. Nazareno said "the P10-billion liquidity loan we granted last Oct. 6 was for 90 days at market rates (one percent over 91-day T-bills), secured by acceptable promissory notes on 2:1 cover. We like to emphasize that we did not purchase these collaterals. We required them to support the repayment on the loan with a comfortable cover of 2:1." He did not say who guaranteed the promissory note that made it acceptable, but we can safely assume it was Lucio Tan.

To justify the loan, Nazareno read chapter and verse from the PDIC charter: "The corporation, in the direction of its board of directors, is authorized to make loans to, or purchase the assets of, or assume the liabilities of, or make deposits in such an insured bank upon such terms and conditions as the board of directors may prescribe, when in the opinion of the board of directors, the continued operation of such a bank is essential to provide adequate banking service in the community to maintain financial stability in the economy."

I said then that granting a clean loan of P10 billion, which was a whopping 42 percent of premium reserves, was grave and wanton abuse of authority. It was putting too many eggs in one basket. If PDIC were a private company, the Insurance commission would have closed it down.

Now, PDIC has jumped from the frying pan into the fire. Eight months after the 90-day promissory note was signed, PDIC converted half of the loan into equity. A flurry of questions comes to mind. Were the shares new issues? If not, whose shares were bought? In either case, at what rate was the loan converted into shares? What about the unconverted half? Was it rolled over again?

Converting a loan into equity is sometimes a smart thing to do. A loan has a fixed return. Equity earns dividends that may be higher than the interest on the loan. Also, equity rises in value as company assets grow. But since PNB has been losing billions every year, no dividends have been paid and its assets have dwindled. And there is no light at the end of this long tunnel. I have a few PNB shares myself and I consider them garbage.

Besides, as a lender, PDIC, along with all the other lenders, has the first crack at PNB's assets. As a shareholder, it has the last.

The deal clearly favors Lucio Tan who is off the hook, at least for the half of the loan that was converted into equity. But what is good for Lucio Tan is bad for the depositors, not only of PNB, but also of all other banks. PDIC's premium reserves (P42 billion in Oct. 6) are trust funds held for and in behalf of depositors. Even in normal times, the reserves must easily be convertible into cash to meet claim payments for depositors of banks that fail. In the current situation, where banks (particularly PNB) are reeling under bad loans of unusually high levels, keeping the funds liquid (and lending money to or buying equity at PNB is no way to do it) assumes the utmost importance.

Converting the loan into equity is, again, a grave and wanton abuse of authority. Granting that PNB is too large to be allowed to fail, this bailout scheme endangers PDIC's capacity to settle claims if other banks, such as Urban, collapse. The fact that PDIC has unlimited capability to borrow from Bangko Sentral does not justify the abuse of authority.

For being such a good boy, Nazareno has now been anointed PNB chair, but the board rightly remains in Lucio Tan's grip. As chair, Nazareno has to protect the bank. As the concurrent PDIC's CEO, he has to protect the depositors. Faced with such a terrible conflict of interest, he need not only be a banker; he also has to be an acrobat. Let us watch him do his high-wire act.

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Goings-On

People's Credit

THE PEOPLE'S Credit and Finance Corp., the micro-financing arm of the government, has extended about P2.74 billion to 345,000 households through 177 conduits nationwide as of end-April.

PCFC president and CEO Eustacio B. Orobia Jr. reported to the National Anti-Poverty Commission in a meeting last week on Kalahi (Kapit-Bisig Laban sa Kahirapan) that PCFC would double its efforts to address the need for micro-financing services in the NAPC-identified 25 priority areas in NCR and two adjoining provinces.

For the NCR alone, PCFC has covered through 18 conduits about 30,000 poor borrowers, more than 90 percent of them were women engaged in small livelihood projects such as tending variety stores, food vending, rag making and food processing.

NAPC spearheaded the conceptualization of Kalahi to integrate all the government programs in fighting poverty. PCFC was tasked to provide poor families with livelihood capital ranging from P1,000 to a maximum of P25,000 each.

Pag-IBIG loans hit ₱4.4B

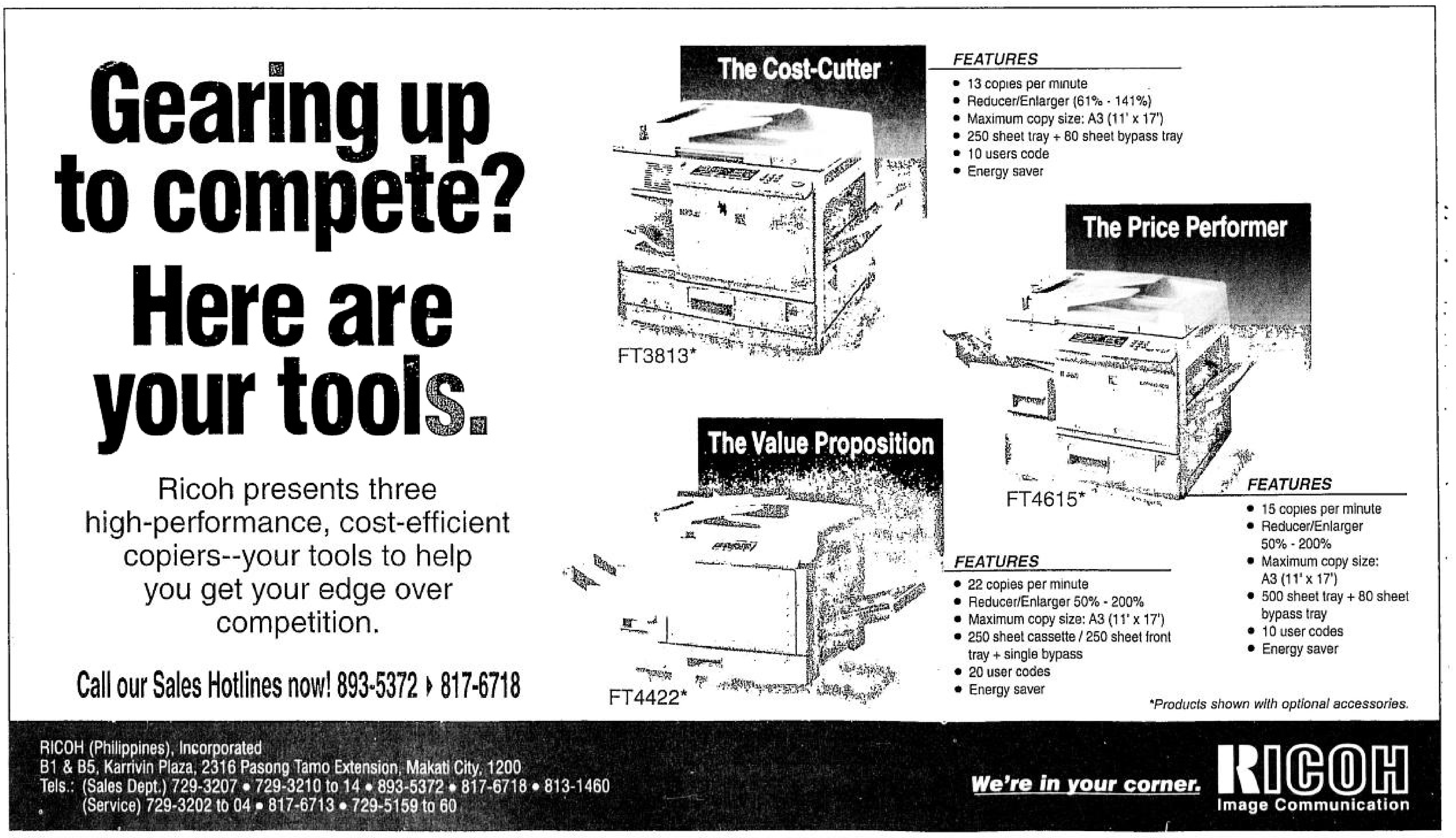
CLOSE to 300,000 Pag-IBIG Fund members took out P4.4 billion worth of loans and benefits from the housing institution in the first quarter of the year, fund officials said.

Pag-IBIG Fund chair Michael Defensor said 261,498 Fund members availed themselves of multi-purpose loans with gross value of P2.696 billion from January to March this year.

It also approved and released more than P1.266 billion for the construction or purchase of 5,989 housing units during the same period.

In addition to these loans, Pag-IBIG returned over P479.98 million worth of Provident Fund contributions and savings to 21,325 members.

The Fund likewise posted a first quarter net income of P1.716 billion. Its total assets reached P117.42 billion by end-March.



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FEATURES
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- 10 user codes
- Energy saver

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PLDT VS BAYANTEL

Telecom war brewing in Mindanao

DAVAO CITY—Another war is brewing in Mindanao. This time, the war is between two telecommunications companies—Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. and Bayan Telecommunications.

The two companies have been pouring money into Mindanao lately, acquiring assets, going into mergers and buying off control over smaller telecommunications companies in the area.

Bayantel Southern Mindanao manager Jed Sevilla said Mindanao's potential was great because of its strategic location. Mindanao lies at the center of Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines-East Asian Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA).

"Mindanao covers BIMP-EAGA and part of Australia and it's going to be the heart of the growth triangle," he said.

Gilberto Luis, PLDT-Davao branch manager, said PLDT had at the moment only 100,000 phone lines in Mindanao covering Davao City, Cotabato, General Santos City, Iligan, Ozamiz City and Zamboanga.

"We expect to double that in 10 years, at most," he said.

PLDT has already taken over the ownership control of two small telecom companies in the island such as Maranao Telecommunications and Cross Telephone Communications.

Sevilla, however, said that all the investments made by Bayantel and other companies would only go to waste if the government would not do its part in maintaining peace and order in Mindanao and formulating policies to even the playing field in the telecommunications industry.

"The government should offer tax holidays and exemptions and it has to provide us with the proper climate and environment for business to grow," Sevilla said.

Bayantel plans to launch fusion technology here in Mindanao by the end of the year or early next year.

Fusion Technology is the convergence of cable, telephone and the Internet into one system, he said.

"The customer could save P1,000 per month (with the fusion technology) and enjoy the advantages of having to go to only one payment area, one contact area and one customer service," he added.

Sevilla said Bayantel has already invested P1 billion in Southern Mindanao alone for the upgrading of its services and the establishment of more phone lines. *Joel B. Escovilla, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Business pushing for more Islamic banks in South

DAVAO CITY—Mindanao businessmen here are pushing for the entry of more Islamic banks in Mindanao to make available more credit facilities to Moro communities.

Mindanao Business Council (MBC) chair Joji Ilagan-Bian said the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao and Western Mindanao have "the lowest per capita income and the highest poverty incidence."

"They also have the lowest access to essential services such as potable water, electricity, health care and education," she said.

Bian said providing accessibility to financial facilities that respect Islamic beliefs and tradition was one option the government must consider to the economic concerns in the region.

At present, only Philippine Al-Amanah Islamic Bank exclusively caters to Muslim entrepreneurs and individuals, Bian said.

With the amendment of Republic Act No. 6848, the law that created Al-Amanah Islamic Bank, the provision for a 60-percent government ownership has been changed allowing private groups to own the majority of the bank. This paved the way for the bank's privatization.

A number of groups have expressed interest to buy into the bank, including the Islamic Development Bank of Jeddah and even the Sultanate of Brunei.

Abraham Ututalum, manager of Al-Amanah Islamic Bank-Davao City branch, said the bank, though having only a paid-up capital of P1 billion has no liabilities and international debts making it attractive to foreign investors.

The proposal for more Islamic banks came during a series of consultation workshops held by the Mindanao Business Council in the cities of Davao, Cagayan, Ozamiz, Cotabato, General Santos and Zamboanga.

Bian said the proposal would be presented to President Macapagal-Arroyo during the 10th Mindanao Business Conference in Cotabato City in August. *Joel B. Escovilla, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Aircraft repair facility opens in Clark ecozone

A NEW repair and maintenance facility to service the Philippine Air Force's special aircraft has started operations in Clark Field, Pampanga. To date, the company has successfully repaired two S211 jet trainees.

Aerotech, the exclusive representative/dealer of Aermacchi in the Philippines, was awarded the contract to do the mandatory inspection and maintenance of the Philippine Air Force's fleet of Aermacchi S-211 jet trainers.

The facility's formal inauguration was slated for June 29. It will be highlighted by the turnover of the S211 jet liners to the PAF.

The inauguration and roll-out, to be held at the Civil Aviation Complex, CSEZ, will be witnessed by top officials of the government and of the PAF, said Teresa Parian, chief operating officer of Aerotech Industries Philippines Inc.

Parian said this was the first time that the PAF has approved in-country inspection and maintenance of the military aircraft. This has been instituted to achieve efficiency in terms of operational capabilities and resources. Parian said this supported the Philippine national defense program on self-reliance and transfer of technology and skills. The tapping and upgrading of Filipino skilled workers in aviation and the implementation of an efficient logistic management system for the military can contribute to the country's economic growth through foreign exchange savings and operating economies in time and management.

Aerotech's thrust in this direction started in 1995 when it was appointed as the certified/licensed Martin-Baker Ejection Seats service facility in the country servicing the MK 10LA ejection seats on S-211 jet trainers of the PAF.

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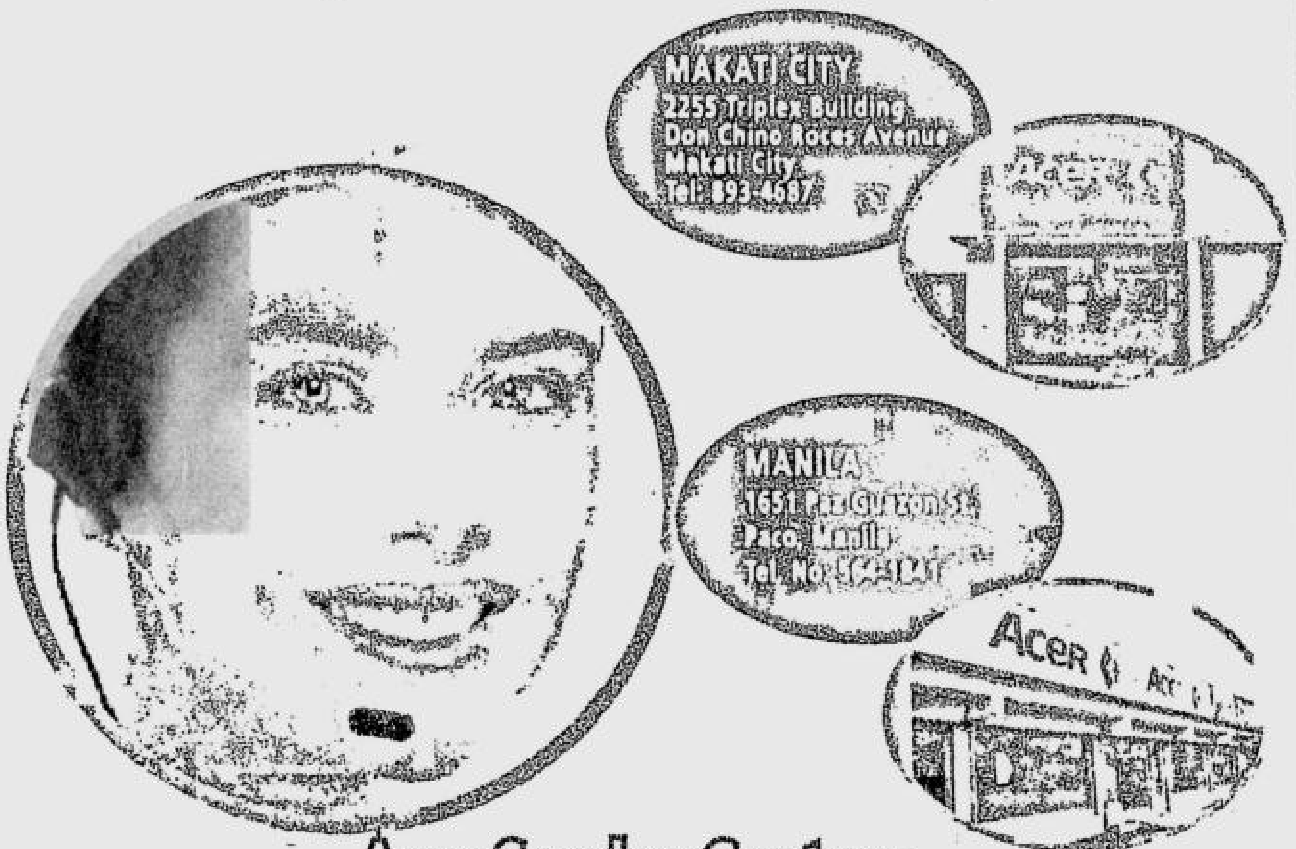

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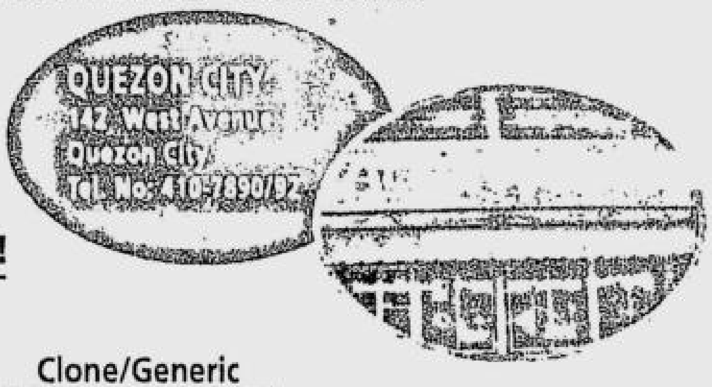

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ADB insists on meeting terms of grains loan

THE ASIAN Development Bank is insisting that the Philippines comply first with two of its conditions before it releases the second and third installments of the $175-million Grain Sector Development Program loan.

"If the structural reforms for the Philippine grains sector are not to be pursued, we see no purpose in releasing the funds," Hecker told the INQUIRER.

Agriculture Secretary Leonardo Montemayor said the Macapagal administration would have no choice but to comply with the ADB's conditions.

One condition pertains to the rice industry, where the lifting of restrictions on rice importation and reduction of the National Food Authority's buying price of rice are being sought.

"The conditions imposed on the loan release include the President certifying to Congress as urgent bill a law that will scrap quantitative restriction on rice importation," Montemayor said.

He said the release of the second installment of about $30 million was linked to President Macapagal-Arroyo's immediate action on this bill.

"If we (government) cannot comply with this condition, we will not receive the second installment of the ADB loan," Montemayor added.

Another ADB condition is the privatization of the National Food Authority.

Montemayor said the Cabinet panel involved in the second negotiations was studying seriously the implication of the lifting of restrictions on rice importation because cheap imported rice could flood the market.

He said these would affect local farmers who were not ready yet to compete with cheap imported rice sold freely in local markets. ***Christine A. Gaylican and Juan B. Escandor Jr.***

DTI steps in to settle S&R Price dispute

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE DEPARTMENT of Trade and Industry has stepped into a corporate dispute between PriceSmart Inc. and Ever Gotesco Resources Holdings Inc., fearing an extended closure of the US retail giant's local unit, S&R Price Membership Shopping, could further ruin the country's image.

Trade Secretary Manuel "Mar" Roxas II said foreign investors were looking closely at how swiftly the government could resolve this corporate dispute.

On Tuesday, S&R Price re-opened its doors after securing from the Court of Appeals an order preventing a lower court from shutting it down for 17 days.

The appellate court's order was welcome news to over 50,000 S&R Price cardholders waiting to shop at the company's 5,000-square-meter Fort Bonifacio warehouse store.

The Las Piñas Regional Trial Court issued Friday a temporary restraining order against S&R Price as a result of a lawsuit filed by Ever Gotesco Resources and Holdings Inc.

Ever Gotesco claimed it had the exclusive right to operate S&R Price shopping-type stores in the Philippines.

Ever Gotesco is owned by Chinese-Filipino retailer Jose Go, who is out on bail for allegedly defrauding thousands of depositors of the shuttered lender Orient Commercial Banking Corp. The company was once a licensee of S&R Price's parent company, PriceSmart.

On Monday, S&R Price's lawyers filed an urgent appeal asking the Court of Appeals to overturn the Las Piñas court's ruling, saying their client was denied due process and that the restraining order had defects.

The appellate court sided with S&R Price. It prevented the lower court from enforcing its restraining order against S&R Price and "proceeding any further" with Ever Gotesco's civil case. It scheduled a hearing on July 24 to review S&R Price's request for a preliminary injunction.

An official of a leading local retailer, who refused to be identified, questioned the government's intervention in the dispute, saying it should be treated as a private matter.

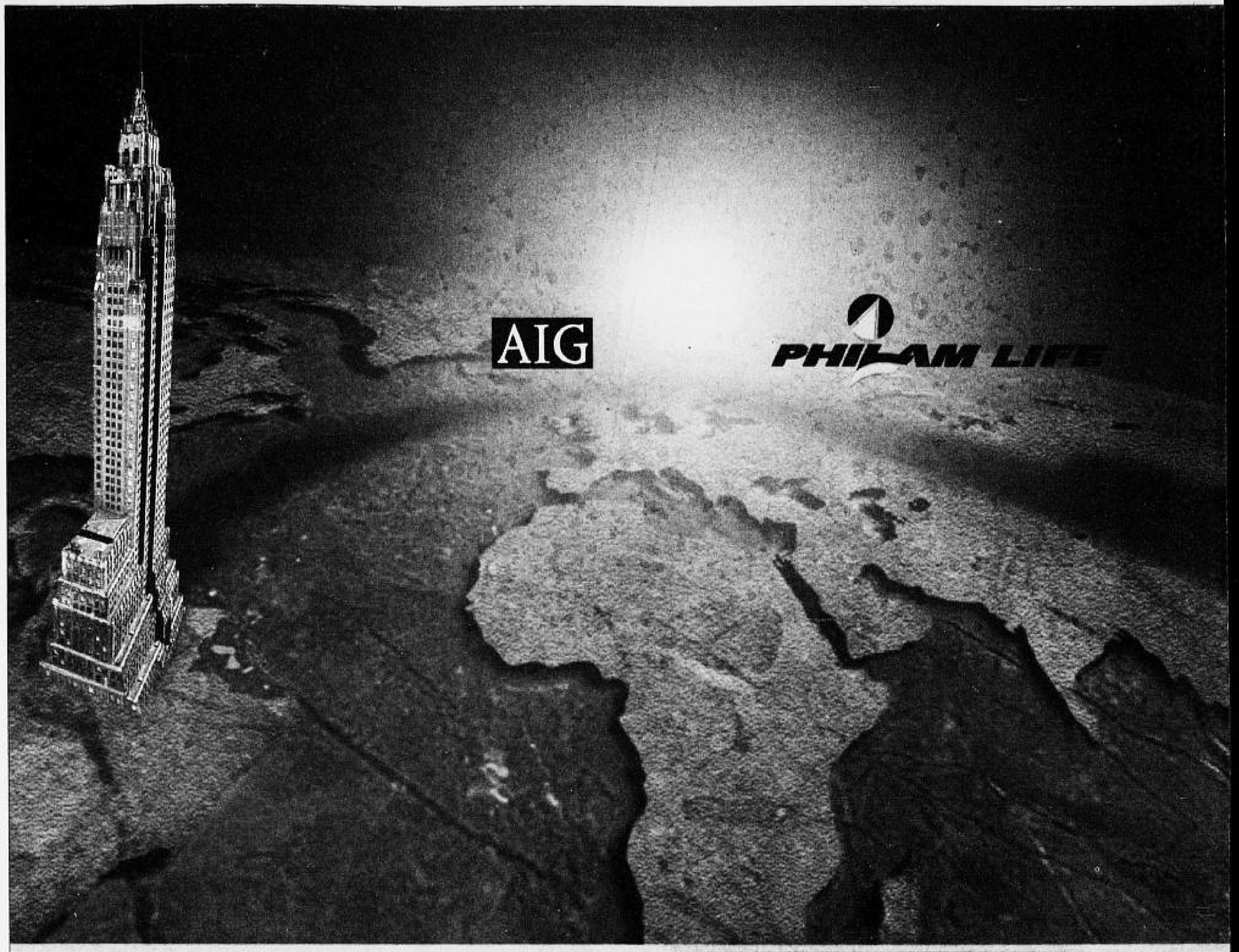
S&R Price has been widely linked to the jailed President Estrada.

S&R Price's contractor and local partners are either cronies or closely linked to the deposed administration.

Before former President Estrada stepped into power, Ever Gotesco signed a 10-year exclusive agreement with PriceSmart to build and operate Price Club-type stores in the country. Although only one store was opened due to serious financial difficulties, Ever Gotesco claimed that the contract remains binding.

It was only during the Estrada administration that PriceSmart shopped around for new partners especially with the signing of the Retail Trade Liberalization Act which opened the industry to foreign ownership after 50 years of being limited only to Filipinos.

PriceSmart has committed to invest $100 million in the country with the establishment of at least 10 sprawling shopping centers.



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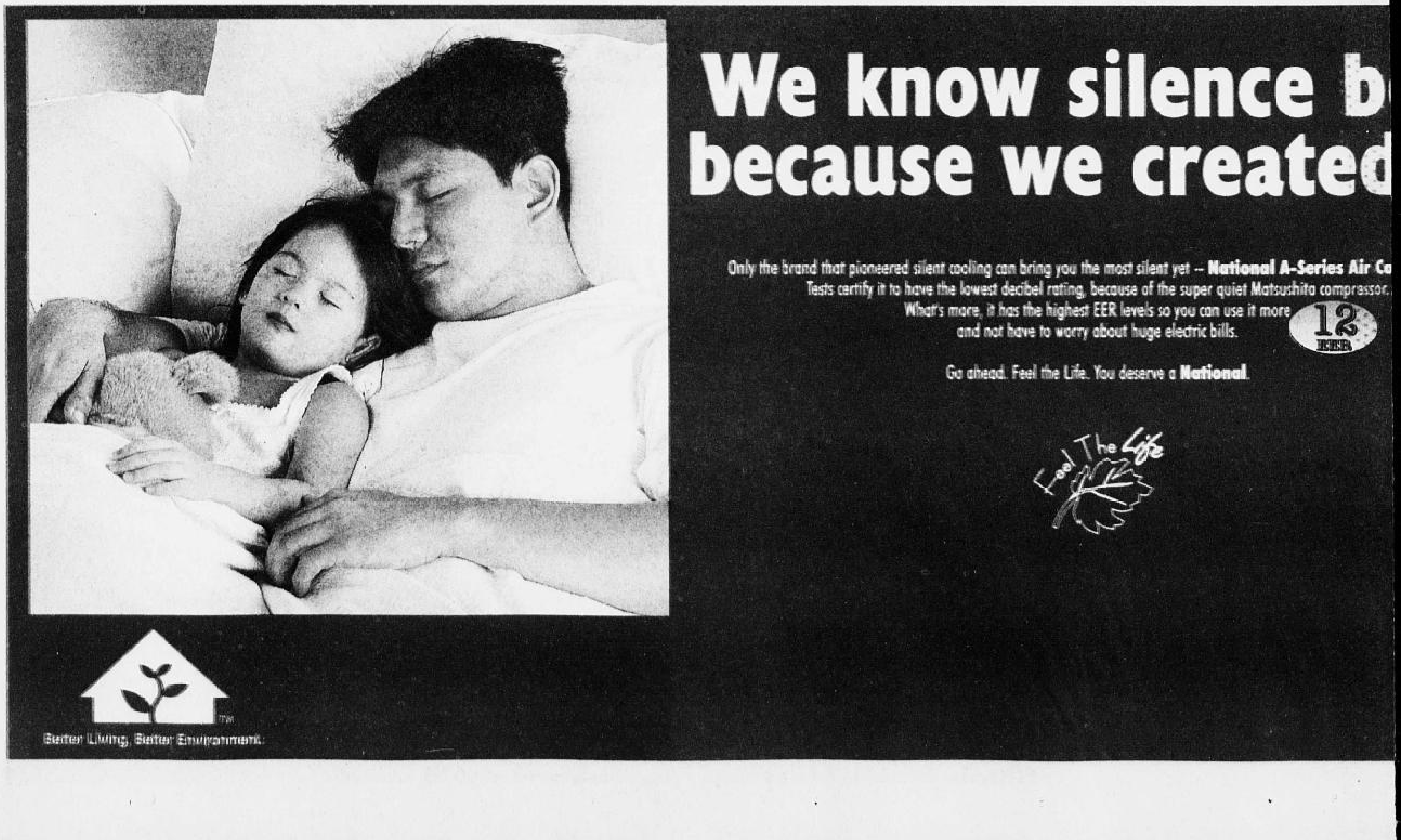

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Meralco sees ₱1 drop in its industrial rates

By Ronnel W. Domingo

MANILA Electric Co. said it might be able to lower its industry electricity rates by at least a peso per kilowatt-hour with the scheduled removal of the cross-subsidy system in power pricing as provided in the industry's reform program.

Meralco vice president Rodolfo Quetua said Friday that the opportunity for lowering the current wholesale rate of the company was "tremendous." The reduction is expected to make local rates competitive with the electricity rates charged in other Asean countries.

"Our wholesale tariff is already higher than the retail rates of our neighboring countries," Quetua told a group of engineers in a forum.

Last month, Meralco said National Power Corp. was charging the Lopez-controlled company P3.59 per kwh for the electricity it was buying.

Meralco data showed that its industrial rates of P4 per kwh as of end-2000 was the third highest in the region next to those in Japan (about P8 per kwh) and Hong Kong (more than P5 per kwh).

In contrast, industrial customers in Malaysia, Singapore and Taiwan are paying only about P3 per kwh and less than P2 per kwh in Indonesia.

Quetua blamed the subsidy system adopted by Napocor in setting its rates for the high cost of electricity in the Philippines.

Under the inter-grid subsidy system, for instance, customers in Luzon subsidize those in Visayas and Mindanao, Quetua said.

He said Meralco customers were also chipping in for Luzon customers outside its franchise area through the inter-grid subsidy.

He added that within the Meralco franchise area, there was also a cross-subsidy between customer classes.

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Chinatrust plans to offer 20% stake to public

By Elena R. Torrijos

CHINATRUST Philippines Commercial Bank Corp., a unit of Taiwan-based Chinatrust Commercial Bank, will raise its capital by offering to the public new shares equivalent to a 20-percent stake in the bank by early 2003.

Chinatrust Philippines president William Go said that in line with the bank's commitment to the Philippine Stock Exchange, the bank would conduct another public offering to retain its status as a listed entity.

Last December, Chinatrust Commercial Bank substantially increased its equity in Chinatrust Philippines to 91 percent of the bank's capital stock through the acquisition of shares held by local shareholders.

In January this year, the Taipei bank further acquired, through a tender offer, 9 percent of the bank's equity that was held by the public.

PSE rules, however, requires listed companies to sell to the public at least 10 percent of its shares to remain listed.

The PSE agreed not to delist Chinatrust Philippines provided it would pursue another public offering within two years after its Taipei principal acquired the shares held by the public.

Chinatrust Commercial Bank chair and Chinatrust Philippines chair Jeffrey Koo projected that the local bank would achieve a net income of close to P300 million this year from P200.8 million last year.

Koo also disclosed that Chinatrust Philippines was looking for a new president to replace Go who would remain the bank's vice chair.

UK trade mission explores business prospects in RP

THE BRITISH Consultants Bureau, which aims to promote British consultancy services throughout the world, will arrive here today for a five-day trade mission to look at possible investment opportunities in the country.

The mission, led by Ms Sharon Wardle of BCB and Mr. Richard Birch of Mott MacDonald Ltd., includes 12 senior British businessmen from Arup, BLC Leather Technology, Bovis Lend Lease, Callund Consulting, EC Harris, Hyder Consulting, International Hospitals Group, InTrec Ltd. MacAlister Elliott, Phoenix Corporate Risk Management, Scott Wilson and WSPimc. These companies are interested in developing links and exploring opportunities with Philippine companies. The mission will be accompanied throughout their visit by senior officials from Trade Partners UK.

The group will visit officials and heads of the National Economic Development Authority, the World Bank, the Department of Public Works and Highways and the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority among others. They will also have a series of meetings with the Asian Development Bank to discuss the latest trends in development-related trade and investment.

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NR SUMULONG P2,500/SQM 120SQM, 5YRS-PAY 242-1521

•MarikinaGreenhts• 147m² P2,500/m² 438-3970

PARANAQUE

MARCELO 240m² 845-9931

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

LOT

PASIG

Greenwoods Subd. 2 Lots 300sqm Pasig 8900151 ofc.hrs./09179075788

SALE/LEASE: Comml. cor. property 379m² Legaspi & Jennifer Ave. Bgy Maybunga, Pasig City TEL.NO.818-8494

QUEZON CITY

180m²Nvlches Cal 4186212

400sqm CPHomes T9389719

LOYOLA GRAND VILLAS P6500/m² nr ateneo 2420922

•Acropolis 414m² P41T/m² •South DBO • 721-5226

West Triangle LA434 10.8M w/old Hse DBO 721-5226

•Bes. Ayala Hts w/View• 696 P21T/m² DBO 721-5226

B.Ridge 200-500m² P16t/m² LyolaGrn la265 4br 6M 6471291

CAPITOL HOMES QC 551sqm Call 0919-4227654

RIZAL

Antipolo City Proper Coml 1756m² v.nice 658-2115/16

Antipolo V/L 5300m² Cheap w/Fruit Trees • 643-5313

Binangonan G'ridge Ph3 157.9m² 2adj lots 2,300/m² 655-9393

East Acropolis Taytay choi ce resdl lots 6582115/16

Mla. East Road Taytay 667m² -1000m² 6582115/16

•Oro Vista Antipolo• 212-314m² P6T/m² 4383970

•Taytay 10790sqm Comml 815-0298 • 0919-4037225

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•Tiaong Quezon 3.6 Hec• P600/m² Town Hway 721-5226

Cabuyao Indu'l Lots 2-5Has P4500/m² 933-3714

Capas, Tarlac 200Has Expandable to 1,000Has @ P320/m² Frontage 1.8 Kms 652-0227 • 942-6181

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Nueva Ecija Area 2.9Has good 4 res. subd. 655-9393

Sta Rosa. 114Has @ P1,500/m² S. Super H-way 53 Has @P1,500/m² Along Banlo Road 652-0227 • 942-6181

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CONDO/TWNHSE/APT

LAS PINAS

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MAKATI

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Mnhattan 2BR 8M 892-6413

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MANDALUYONG

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Sale/Rent 2BR Nice Deco Pkg
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REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

CONDO/TWNHSE/APT

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STUDIO 32m² w/prkg Gov Place Shaw 5353817

Various Condo/TownHse Call 5346610/8188569 Jojo

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Wack2 Tower 2BR FF P6M 911-7940

PARANAQUE

Nice TH BF Resort Vil Las Pinas 1.6M 911-7940

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PASIG

Olympic II Eastwood 5.5M 2BR Md's Carpk 412-1825

•PARC Royale 1br 1cg RFO• Rush 4383970/0917-7914379

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Prestige/Antel Bargain 90m² @ P40T/m² 412-1825

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Rennaisance FOR SALE 1br / 2br Res. 643-5313

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QUEZON CITY

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Warehouse A-1000m² Call 5346610/8188569 Jojo

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PASIG

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HOUSE

MAKATI

MAGALLANES HOUSE POOL 8439292/8184966/8106557

SANLO 3BR 5268048/49

PARANAQUE

BLS Annex 1618 Pque 3Bdrms Bung Tel#821 2918

PASIG

Bo. Kapitolyo P50K/mo. Resd'l / Off Call 671-4421

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

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Legaspi Village
Very near Greenbelt 120 m². 2BR with 2 T/B plus maid's room with own T/B. Well maintained 100% generator. Tastefully furnished. With parking space. Available August
• CALL JANET 815-9861 •

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Legaspi Village. Very near Greenbelt, 1-BR, very spacious, 76 m². Tastefully furnished. Spacious, bright, with excellent ventilation. With parking space and swimming pool. Available August
• CALL JANET 815-9861 •

Pacific P. 3BR 810-8799

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PNR Hiland 1-3BR Bnew 412-1825 • 0917-7914366

STUDIO 32m² w/prkg Gov Place Shaw 5353817

PASIG

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Renaissance 2000 3br+3tb FFurnsd 18th 09178143792

Renaissance 2000 Brand New FF w/Prkng Call 658-2115/16

RIVERSIDE TOWNHOMES nr Ever Gotesco - Pasig Zel:7224192/ 3 M-F ofc hrs.

QUEZON CITY

MARIPOSA 3B 09177860463

SAN JUAN

Ghills 3BR FFur P30T; 1BR FFur P18T • 723-2391

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600m² along Manila East Road • 658-2115 to 16

•A Tuazon Marikina 456m²• Cor. Lot 438-3970/912-8941

Along Mla. East Rd. 600m² Call 658-2115/16

•Lipa City 500m² to 8000m² Good for factory, w'house, clinics, etc. Good Location •150m² to 360 m² Good for bank, drugstore, etc. •Quezon/Batangas boundary 30,000m² P0.50/m² monthly rental CALL 823-0670

Lots Alng Valley Golf Rd. 1.0 to 4.0 Call 658-2115/16

TEKTITE PSE 09177860463

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

FOR LEASE

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2 % w/out taking Car 3670169

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400sqm Office/Warehouse chb fence w/gate San Ignacio St. Mand. 890-0151 ofc.hrs./(0917)9075788

75sqm, 110sqm & 35sqm Office Space Bel-Air Mkt 8900151 Ofc Hrs/09177905788

•Marikina Market 86m²• 2/S 438-3970/0917-7914379

Mega Plaza 30.78sqm Call 412-1825 • 0917-7914366

Mega Plaza 30m² Office 412-1825 • 0917-7914366

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Orient Sq. 150m² @350/m² Office Unit Call 412-1825

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Licensed Civil Engineer, male, 25 to 30 years old
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Apply personally and bring resumé with ID picture at 4H VS1 Building, 34 Kalayaan Street, near V. Luna Street, Quezon City

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1 CIVIL ENGINEER
Not more than 35 years of age
At least 2 years experience with knowledge on computer
Preferably male

1 BOOKKEEPER
Not more than 30 years of age
At least 2 years experience

Call 286-2879 for more details
2/F Louigin Building El Monteverde Subdivision
San Juan, Taytay, Rizal

NOTICE OF DISTRIBUTION OF CLAIM

All claimants of PAN-ASIA Industrial Inc., Solidlink, Inc. and Queensland-Tokyo Commodities, Inc. who have previously filed their respective claims with the Securities and Exchange Commission or with the undersigned liquidator can claim partial payment thereof from—

ATTY. LOURDES B. ABILLAR
Room 207 Second Floor, SEC Building
EDSA Greenhills, Mandaluyong City
Tel. No. 723-7859

You are hereby requested to present personally to the above-mentioned liquidator the following documents:

1. Two valid identification cards with photo and signature.
2. Photocopy of latest Community Tax Certificate.
3. Original copy of the documents evidencing the actual claim.

(Sgd.) LOURDES B. ABILLAR
Liquidator

(PDI – June 25, 2001)

VESSELS FOR SALE

TUGBOATS: One (1) operating condition - 149.65 GRT, Niigata single main engine, 700 BHP; One (1) non-operating - 44.48 GRT, GM-Detroit twin main engines, 2x230 BHP.

SELF-PROPELLED: One (1) non-operating - 923.28 GRT, 1000 DWT, Niigata single main engine, 15-ton crane.

Contact Mike (CP-0918-9166165), Bobby (CP-0918-9166164) or Colly. Tel. (032) 346-8956, 346-8957, Fax (032) 346-0605.

(PDI – June 24, 25 & 25, 2001)

PUBLIC NOTICES

ANNOUNCEMENT

Specialized in USA/Japan/ Canada/Europe and other Int'l Tourist VISA/Australian /New Zealand & Canadian Immigrant/Student VISA Assitance. Call Marikina Main Office 934-2070 / 71 / 72 Pasig Branch 642-2436

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New Farmers Plaza QC
137 C. Palanca Quiapo
Cordero-Santos Pawnshop
2494 Taft Ave. Pasay
Cordero South Pawnshop
2673 South Ave. Makati
Cordero-SC-Pawnshop
17 A. Zamora St. SFDM QC
EMCCO Bldg. Meycauayan Bulacan.
Auction sale on all expired loans from November 1, 2000 - November 30, 2000 on June 30, 2001 at respective locations.

Klik Pawnshop Olongapo City. Auction sale July 15, 2001 on all unredeemed articles up to June 30, 2000. D. Salvador - Licensed Auctioneer

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PUBLIC NOTICES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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UR Own Wtr Rfl Stn 430T - All in 4 details Call 437-5356 / 438-5134

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LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late RONNIE MANALO, has been Extrajudicially settled with his heirs as per Doc. No. 438; Page No. 89; Book No. 69; and Series of 2001 before Atty. Allan B. Cos, Notary Public of Paranaque City.
(PDI-June 25, July 2 & 9, 2001)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late Esteban M. Portacio Sr. & Concordia P. Portacio has been extrajudicially settled among their heirs as per Doc. 120, Page 24, Book 1, Series of 2000 before Notary Public Arnulfo Canivel at Pasay City
(PDI- June 11,18, & 25 2001)

PERSONAL

SACRED HEART OF JESUS, MAMA MARY, HOLY SPIRIT, HOLY SAINT JUDE- THANK YOU - J.B.F.

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I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me!
John 14:6

In Loving Memory
On the Second Death Anniversary of

Hon. Congressman CIRILO "ROY" G. MONTEJO

March 26, 1926 - June 25, 1999

Holy Masses will be offered on Monday, June 25, 2001 at the following churches:

Lourdes Church, Quezon City .... 7:30 AM
Sto. Domingo Church, Quezon City .... 6:00 PM
Holy Family Parish Church .... 6:00 AM
Roxas District, Quezon City
Mary Queen of Apostles Parish Church .... 6:00 AM
Parañaque City
Sto. Niño Church, Tacloban City, Leyte .... 12:00 NN
Palo Cathedral, Palo, Leyte .... 7:00 AM

'Be strong! Pray to God! This is not goodbye... but so long!

His loving wife, **Meg**, children, grandchildren, brother, sister, in-laws and friends request the pious readers to remember our dear **Roy** in their prayers.

We also wish to thank all relatives and friends who continue to pray for his soul, offer Masses and have expressed to his family the constancy of their love and friendship.

"I am the resurrection and life. He who believes in Me will live,
Even though he dies; and whoever believes in Me will never die."
John 11:25-26

In Loving Memory
On the Fifth Death Anniversary of

JUDGE MANUEL K. GRUBA

Formerly of the Court of Tax Appeals
Who passed on to Eternal Life on June 26, 1996

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass shall be offered
At the following churches:

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

June 25, 2001	**Franciscan Monastery** 1400 Quincy Street, N.E. Washington, D.C. 20017	All Masses
	St. Joan of Arc Church 11534 Gateway Bl. LA. CA 90064, USA	8:00 a.m.

PHILIPPINES

June 26, 2001	**St. Joseph Convent of Perpetual Adoration** 71 M. Hemady Avenue corner 11th Street, Quezon City	All Masses
	Our Lady of Lourdes Church Kanlaon corner Retiro Street, Quezon City	All Masses
	Santuario de San Jose Duke Street, East Greenhills, San Juan	6:15 a.m.
	St. Jude Catholic Church 1420 Dr. Jose P. Laurel Sr. Street San Miguel, Manila	6:30 a.m. 6:00 p.m.
	Mary The Queen Parish Madison Street, Greenhills, San Juan	7:00 a.m. 6:00 p.m.
	Carmel Shrine Dona J. Rodriguez Street New Manila Quezon City	6:00 a.m. 7:00 a.m. 6:00 p.m.
	Santo Domingo Church Quezon City	7:15 a.m 8:00 a.m. 12 nn
	Ntra. Sra. Del Perpetual Socorro Parish 2042 Calamba corner Instruccion Street Sampaloc, Manila	6:00 a.m. 6:00 p.m.
	Our Lady of La Consolation Church Alondras Street Mira Nila Homes Tandang Sora, Quezon City	6:00 a.m. 6:30 p.m.

We request readers, relatives and friends to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

In Loving Memory
On the First Death Anniversary of

PAZ RICAFORT MORALEDA

October 4, 1911 - June 25, 2001

You will always remain in our hearts. We love you. From your loving children **Gloria Isabel** and **Rosa Maria**; sons-in-law **Jesus Pariña Jr.** and **David Reitzel**; grandsons **Jeffrey** and **Daniel**; and granddaughters **Jessica**, **Jennifer** and **Wannie**.

Caridad Dario Bello

Will be interred at the
Loyola Memorial Park,
Marikina City on Thursday,
June 28, 2001 after a 9:00 a.m.
Mass at the La Funeraria Paz,
G. Araneta Avenue,
Quezon City.

In Loving Remembrance
on the First Death Anniversary
of Dear Beloved

JAIME ALDOVER-MACATANGAY

(30 October 1936 - 25 June 2000)
of Macatangay Street, Pallocan West
Batangas City

His loving wife **Luz Burog-Macatangay**, children, grandchildren, relatives and friends request the pious readers to remember **Jaime** in their prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

Holy Masses will be offered today, Monday, June 25, 2001 at the following churches:

1. Basilica Immaculate Conception .... 7:00 am
   Batangasy City
2. St. Mary Euphrasia Church.................. 6:15 am
   Batangas City
3. St. Edmund Church .... 7:30 am
   Edmonton, London
4. Nat'l. Shrine of Our Mother of
   Perpetual Help .... 7:30 am
   Baclaran, Parañaque City

ANTONIO LAGMAN OCAMPO

Born on September 30, 1929

Former Vice Mayor - Floridablanca, Pampanga
Former professor - St. Augustine Academy, Don Bosco Academy and University of the Assumption, Former Principal - Assumption High School, Former Dean of Student Affairs - University of the Assumption.

Loving and Beloved Husband and Father

Has joined his Creator on June 23, 2001 (Saturday)

We, his spouse **OFELIA**, his bereaved children, **MARILOU & NICK**, **WALTER**, **JOSELITO & DANG**, **RONALDO & MHOR** and **JOHANNES & JANNETH** and grandchildren, **Lyn**, **Sonny**, **Anne**, **Nico**, **Michelle**, **Lean**, **Kate**, **Jon**, **Julian**, **Joni**, **Kristel**, **Roanne**, **Robin & Rica**.

Together with

His brother, **Abelardo** and sisters, **Virginia** (†), **Lourdes**, **Dolores** (†), **Iluminada** and **Adelaida**, his in-laws uncles and aunts, nephews and nieces, cousins, other relatives and friends request for prayers for his eternal repose.

His mortal remains lie in state at the Good Shepherd Memorial Park, San Fernando, Pampanga. Interment will follow after a final mass at 2PM on June 26 (Tuesday).

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

Always caring... **INQUIRER OBITUARIES** OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS: ❶ Copy of Death Certificate ❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT • MESSAGE OF THANKS • DEATH ANNIVERSARY • REQUIEMS • FREE OBIT DESIGN

CLASSIFIEDS

NOTICE

Please take notice that **Mr. RICHARD DENIS TAN** whose picture appears herein is no longer connected with Jade Internet and Industries Corporation and has been terminated for a cause as of **March 16, 2001**.

Any transaction entered into by Mr. Tan after the said date, shall not be honored by the company.

JADE INTERNET AND INDUSTRIES CORPORATION
Suite 1802 18/F City State Condominium
Shaw Boulevard, Oranbo, Pasig City

(PDI – June 25 & 29, 2001)

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Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
REGIONAL HEALTH OFFICE NO. 4
QMMC Compound, Project 4, Quezon City

NOTICE TO BID

Center For Health Development No. IV, Quezon City, will conduct public bidding for the following, at the Generics Hall.

	Pre-Bidding	Public-Bidding
DRUGS & MEDICINES	July 02, 2001 10:30 a.m.	July 16, 2001 (Re-Bidding) 10:30 a.m.
SECURITY SERVICES	July 09, 2001 10:30 a.m.	July 23, 2001 10:30 a.m.

For further inquiries, please contact Mr. Moises A. Peralta, Jr., OIC - Supply Management Section, at tel. no. 913-4527.

(Sgd.) ROSARIO H. FAMARAN, MD. MPH.
OIC Director IV

(PDI – June 22 & 25, 2001)

Republika ng Pilipinas
KAGAWARAN NG KAGALINGANG PANLIPUNAN
AT PAGPAPAUNLAD
Department of Social Welfare and Development
Batasan Pambansa Complex, Constitution Hills
Quezon City

Invitation for Bids

June 22, 2001
Early Childhood Development Project
Loan No. 4301-PH
IFB No. ECD-PMO-011DSWD-002

1. The Government of the Republic of the Philippines through the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) has received a loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) in various currencies towards the financing of Early Childhood Development Project (ECDP). It is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contract for **supply and delivery of InformationTechnology (IT) Equipment**.
2. The Department of Social Welfare and Development, Project Management Office (PMO) of the Early Childhood Development Project (ECDP), now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the supply and delivery of IT Equipment. This includes twenty-nine (29) units each of Hi-end Brand Desktop Computer with Modem, Laser Printer and Uninterruptible Power Supply.
3. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information and secure the complete set of bidding documents, upon presentation of a letter of intent, starting **July 4 until July 6, 2001** from Ms. Maricris Jacinto of the Property and Supply Division, 2nd Floor, DSWD, Batasan Complex, Constitution Hills, Quezon City with telephone nos. (632) 9318161, (632) 9318101 to 07 local 125, and fax no. (632) 9517116.
4. Bids must be received in a sealed envelope (complete with all requirements) by Ms. Maricris Jacinto at the same address **not later than July 18, 2001, 10:00 a.m.** Bids must be accompanied by a bid security of two percent (2%) of total bid price. Late quotations will not be accepted.
5. Prior to submission of bid proposals, a **Pre-Bid Conference** will be held on **July 11, 2001, 2:00 p.m.** at the Administrative Conference Room, 2nd Floor, DSWD, Batasan Complex, Constitution Hills, Quezon City.
6. The DSWD Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any formality therein and/or accept the bid as may be considered most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) **Asst. Sec. LOURDES G. BALANON**
Chairperson, Bids & Awards Committee

(PDI--June 24, 25, 2001)

AUCTION

CANDY MANUFACTURING AND PACKAGING MACHINERY; FAST FOOD RESTAURANT EQUIPMENT; EXECUTIVE AND PASSENGER VEHICLES; OFFICE FURNITURE & EQUIPMENT; ETC.
In over 600 lots Inc.

MOTOR VEHICLES - MITSUBISHI PAJERO Intercooler Turbo Diesel - UBJ-421 (1995); MITSUBISHI GALANT VR WAW-394 (1997); (2) HONDA ACCORD UBE-915, UDE646 (1995); TOYOTA CROWN Super Saloon 2.0i - TSR-569 (1995); SUZUKI VITARA Auto 4 JLX 16 Valve UJF-780 (1996); MAZDA LANTIS 323 WFK-652 (1998); NISSAN SENTRA Super Saloon A.T. THZ-514 (1993); (2) TAMARAW FX UBT-728, TTJ-841 (1995); MITSUBISHI L200 Crew Cab Pick-up UAZ-303 (1995)

CANDY MANUFACTURING MACHINERY - BOSCH 27-D Creame Filer; (4) LATINI DPW-1 Candy Former; (2) HANSELLA HWR-V Batch Cooker; Savage Caramel Cooker; Candy Crushers; Candy Coolers; Metal Detectors; Ass't'd. Feed/Cooling Conveyors; HERSHY Wafer Cutter; etc.

CANDY WRAPPING MACHINERY - SIG Bunch Wrappers; ROSE FOREGROVE Cut and Fold Wrapping Machine; ROSE FOREGROVE Cut & Twist Wrapping Machine; OTTO HANSEL Foil and Band Wrapping Machine; ROSE FOREGROVE Twist Wrapping Machine; OTTO HANSEL Dual Head Twist Wrapping Machine; WEILHAND SP202BS-C Verticle Weigher Bagger; AQUARIUS ATL2 Lollipop Wrapper; GD Bologna 2120B Bunch Wrapper; AUTOWRAP Verso Row247; Pillow Wrapper; SIG, OTOT HANSELL Bunch Wrappers; etc.

FAST FOOD RESTAURANT EQUIPMENT - (8) BELSHAW Donut Robot Cutting Head;(2) BELSHAW Donut Fryers; (4) BELSHAW Deep Fat Fryers; (4) BELSHAW MKIV Donut Robot Fryers; (6) FRYMASTER Deep Fat Fryers; WOLF S.S. Gas Range W/ Oven; COLDLITE/TAYLOR Soft Serve Machines; (3) Four Head Waffle Cone Makers, WELBILT/UNIVEX H.D. Dough Mixers; CARTER HOFFMAN Thermal Controlled Storage Cabinets; KOLPAK Walk-In Chiller; S.S. Cooling Racks; S.S. Preparation Tables; (3) ORION S.S. Refrigerated Display Cabinets; Cappuccino Coffee Machines; (5) Refrigerated Deli Counters; etc.

MACHINE TOOLS & EQUIPMENT - (3) ASAHI Drying Tumblers; AMADA Vertical Bandsaw; (2) PHILADELPHIA Mixer Drivers; HITACHI OSP-IIYA; OSP-22A Screw Compressors; JAPAX DMI58 EDM Machine; Granulators; Auto Clip Maker; Internal Grinder; S.S. Centrifuge, Hydro Extractor; TOM Tying Machine; Centre Lathe; Guillotine; etc.

OFFICE FURNITURE & EQUIPMENT - Double Pedestal Wooden Desks; LUXUS Single Pedestal Desks; Three/Four Drawer Lateral Filing Cabinets; PANASONIC FP1680; MITA DC2285 Photocopiers; HEWLETT PACKARD Laser Jet IV Printers; Ass't'd. Dot Matrix Printers; Personal Computers; etc.

MISC & SCRAPS - Steel Plate; Ass't'd Electric Motors; Speed Reducers; (5) Jack Presses; Airconditioning Condensers; Ass't'd Refrigerators; Ceramic Tiles; Window Type Air Conditioners; Personal Lockers; etc.

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NFA to assist DILG's Patrol 117

THE NATIONAL Food Authority (NFA) has been tapped in the People's Action Team Responding On Line or Patrol 117 of the Department of Interior and Local Government.

Originally known as Street Watch 117, the program is a 24-hour emergency hotline of the DILG aimed at responding to emergency calls from fire, accidents, or any life-threatening cases.

In an effort to bring their program closer to the people in government, DILG recently pooled all government information officers to introduce their Patrol 117 program in a meeting at the DILG office in Quezon City.

According to PSSupt. Filipino A. Amoguis, executive director of the program, he expects people from the government, as well as the civil society, to participate in the dissemination of information regarding Patrol 117. He further stated that the success of the program lies in the total participation and active involvement of the citizenry.

Implemented September 1998, the program is being reinforced to prevent the proliferation of crime from the barangay level towards the national level.

NFA Administrator Anthony R.A. Abad also underscored the commitment of the agency not only towards the country's attainment of food security but also of peace and order nationwide though proper coordination with its offices in the regions and provinces.

Other agencies to be tapped for the program are the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), National Statistics Office (NSO), Department of Finance (DOF), Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA), and local government units.

Data obtained from the DILG revealed that the program has helped in the prevention of crimes with a minimum of 7.6 minutes of response time since its implementation.

Initially accessible through PLDT phones, Patrol 117 will soon be available via cellular phones and other telephone companies upon the approval of the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC).

Patrol 117 is available in Metro Manila, but according to Amoguis, it will soon be introduced in urban cities nationwide.

MARIO'S KITCHEN BLESSED
Mario's Kitchen on the second level of Greenbelt Cinema, Makati City, was recently blessed by Father Bob (not in photo) of Greenbelt Chapel. Shown (from left) are Alberto Villareal and Elizabeth dela Cruz of Mario's Kitchen; Timmy Naval, Mario Benitez Jr., Fay Chan, and Nenuca Benitez of The Mario's Group, Tessa Prieto-Valdes of The Trezza Group and David Rafael of Ayala Land Inc. Mario's Kitchen is a member of The Mario's Group of Restaurants.

March 6, 2001 • 9:00 AM

EQUITABLE PCI BANK-MICROSOFT AGREEMENT
Equitable PCI Bank recently signed an enterprise licensing agreement with Microsoft Philippines. This comprehensive software licensing agreement, which covers all Microsoft software used by the bank, includes maintenance, consultation, training, and upgrades of Microsoft products. Through this agreement, Equitable PCI Bank further reiterates its continued compliance with the country's anti-piracy law while obtaining support and updates on present and future Microsoft technologies. The agreement was signed by (seated from left) Microsoft enterprise business group director Raymond Huang, Microsoft managing director Richard Francis, Equitable PCI Bank SEVP and chief operating officer Edilberto V. Javier, and Equitable PCI Bank SVP and chief technology officer Dennis C. Bancod.

Rizal kin's book exposes truths in history

THE NEW book "Swatting the Spanish Files" is opening the eyes of many to the "lies" that taint the country's history.

The book, authored by an educator who shares Rizal's own roots, exposes the bitter truths about the death of this national hero, his true intentions, and what his Noli Me Tangere and El Filibusterismo have been written for.

To Margarita Ventenilla Hamada, the author, Rizal's heroism should never be attributed to the revolution, which he neither engineered nor was ever a part of.

Rizal's heroism was in having shown the social malaise that incapacitated the Filipinos in pursuing freedom, even up to now.

"It was to this end he wrote Noli Me Tangere and El Filibusterismo to expose our sores which flies find so attractive. To incite us to swat those flies wasn't his intention at all, even if they were an accursed presence, because, with or without those flies, his medical knowledge made him see that a sore-ridden body, if untreated, would die.

"True to his calling both as doctor and man of letters, he did right thing from the beginning: identify the exact location of the problem. It lay with us, the ruled, and not with our ruler," Hamada writes.

Hamada invites readers to revisit, through her book, history's long trail of betrayal, treachery, deceit, and other symptoms of immaturity that characterizes the national psyche.

Also an artist, writer, pianist and successful entrepreneur, Hamada is a member of the Age of Enlightenment Foundation of the Philippines, Pangasinan Historical Society, and Soroptimist International of Lingayen. She is the founder/directress of Harvent Schools, Lingayen and Dagupan City Her great-grandmother, Felipa Quintos, is a descendant of Manuel Quintos, Jose Rizal's maternal great-grandfather.

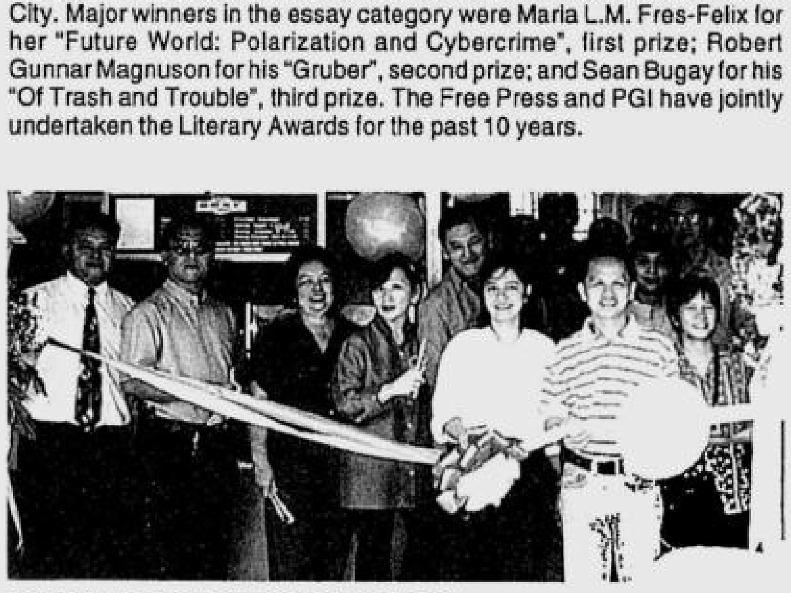
Published by Giraffe Books (giraffe@nsclub.net or 928-9269). "Swatting the Spanish Flies" is available at National Bookstore and Bookmark.

Top IT exec speaks at PMA GMM

IT executive Paul Ambas, program director for incubator services of Hatch Asia, will be the guest speaker in the upcoming general membership meeting (GMM) of the Philippine Marketing Association (PMA) Slated on June 27, 12 noon at Dusit Hotel Nikko, Ambas is set to discuss the topic "Internet Incubator Companies: Where Great Marketing Ideas meet Venture Capitalists." Hatch Asia is a prime IT company known for providing strategic management, human resource development, finance and legal advice to corporate leaders and new E-businessmen. For inquiries or slot reservations, call Lira Ligero at the PMA Secretariat Office at 892-3144, 892-0978 and 813-0466.

Annual
Literary

BEST LITERARY WRITERS
PGI president and general manager D. Stephen Pye (far right) and PLDT's Nick Thompson and Free Press publisher Henry Locsin (first and second from left, respectively) pose with the winners of the recent Philippines Free Press Annual Literary Awards at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel in Makati City. Major winners in the essay category were Maria L.M. Fres-Felix for her "Future World: Polarization and Cybercrime", first prize; Robert Gunnar Magnuson for his "Gruber", second prize; and Sean Bugay for his "Of Trash and Trouble", third prize. The Free Press and PGI have jointly undertaken the Literary Awards for the past 10 years.



BOXY GOURMET RICE IN QC
Boxy Gourmet Rice recently opened its outlet in Congressional Avenue in Quezon City. Boxy is a fresh idea in fast food, offering gourmet rice for people on the go. In photo are (from left) Boxy franchise officer Benjel Sison; DWIZ broadcast journalist Raul Esperas, Celita Valencia-Castaños, BPI VP Roni Tapia-Merk, and outlet owners Araceli Pascual-Tapia, Ricardo Enriquez and Vera May Caritativo. At the back are (from left) special guest Richard Merk, outlet owner Teresa Santos, and franchisor Auster Perez.

GATSBY AND UP-GALAKHAKAN 2001
Mandom Philippines, maker of Gatsby Gel, sponsored the recent Galakhakan 2001, a sports fest participated in by the 16 fraternities under the Samahan ng mga UP Fratmen sa Kampus. The sportsfest, which aims to promote friendship and camaraderie among the fraternities, was jointly staged by the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs (OVCSA) and the UP Barkada ng mga Fratmen. Mandom Philippines provided the prizes for the events which was presented by Puma. John Garcia of OVCSA hands over the Mandom prizes to the captain of one of the winning teams. Also shown is professor Tessa Jazmines, vice chancellor for Student Affairs, UP-Diliman.

Bits & Clips

DLSU launches CHIMES Award

THE DE LA SALLE University System will launch the Lorenzo M. Tañada CHIMES Award on June 26 at the Augusto Rosario Gonzalez Theater of the DLSU-College of St. Benilde. The CHIMES Award was established to recognize members of the academic community of the DLSU System who live, exemplify and promote the values which contributes to esteem in themselves and in others, teamwork, innovation, competence and the desire to make positive differences in this world. CHIMES (Common good, Honesty, Integrity, Meritocracy, Excellence and Service) is a values formation project of DLSU System president Br. Rolando Dizon, FSC. The search is open to students, faculty, co-academic personnel, alumni and administrators (below the level of dean) of the six DLSU System schools. Nomination forms shall be available at the office of the executive vice president of each DLSU System school. Deadline for nomination is on September 15.

SSS dialogue on radio

DUE to unforeseen technical problems with the transmitter, the "Dialogue with SSS" over radio program "Jobs on Air" was held this Sunday, June 24. SSS Chair Vitaliano Nanagas and Media Affairs head Joel Palacios were the main guests. Barbie L. Atienza, the program host, PMAP president Freddie Marquez and Bernadette Cunanan co-anchored. The dialogue was an offshoot of requests from listeners and members of the Personnel Management Association of the Philippines (PMAP). PMAP co-produces "Jobs On Air" with icc.communications. Listeners may phone in their questions and concerns through 920-7517-18 and 414-4919 during programs. "Jobs On Air" broadcasts every Sunday 3 to 5:30 p.m. over DWSS 1494AM.

Visual artists' works on exhibit

VISIT the art exhibit "Buy an Art Piece, Watch it Grow!" at the JCSGO central office at 155 Mirasol Street along 15th Avenue, Murphy, Cubao, Quezon City on June 23 to 24. Each art piece you purchase will go to the construction of the future Seed Multi-Complex Center, an annex of the JCSGO building. The "Buy an Art Piece, Watch it Grow" exhibit is open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. It is open to public.

10th Amic annual conference

EXPERTS in information and communication technology in the Asia-Pacific region will get together in the 10th Asian Media Information and Communication Centre (Amic) Annual Conference to discuss new trends and developments in Asia's media and infocomm industry and their implications to society. To be held from June 27 to 29 at the AIM Conference Center, Makati City, the conference is organized by Amic in coordination with the Office of the Press Secretary-Philippine Information Agency (OPS-PIA), Philippine Association of Communication Educators (PACE), Miriam College and Philippine Communication Society. About 200 delegates from the region are expected. Interested parties may secure their registration forms from the conference secretariat care of PIA-HRD, third floor, PIA Building, Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City with telefax number (632) 920-4336 and e-mail amicline@singnet.com.sg/webpage: www.amic.org.sg.

SHDA national convention

THE SUBDIVISION and Housing Developers Association (SHDA) will hold its National Developers Convention 2001 on June 26 and 27 at Shangri-La Hotel, Makati City. Invited to keynote the annual convention is President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. The two-day meet will have six convention modules. Attendance and reservations may be made at 899-8275, 890-0323 (telefax) or by email shda@mozcom.com.

SMART, NEXTEL INTERCONNECTION
Smart Communications and Nextel Communications Philippines Inc. recently entered into an agreement to open interconnection between the two companies' networks. This agreement enables subscribers of Smart to make outgoing and receive incoming calls from a Nextel subscriber on his Smart cellphone, and vice versa. Signing the agreement are lawyer Rogelio V. Quevedo (left), Smart's head for legal department and Emilio P. Festejo, president of Nextel Communications Philippines Inc.

LAWYER-AUTHOR WITH DAVIDE
Lawyer Jim V. Lopez's "The Law on Annulment of Marriage" was warmly received by readers in all key cities in the Philippines. Photo shows Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. with wife Virgie, son lawyer Hilario "Jun Jun" Davide III and wife and author Lopez.

FGU LAUNCHES REWARDS PROGRAM
Agents of FGU Insurance Corporation cheer for their team at the launch of "Race for Your Rewards", a sales promotion for its direct agents. The top prizes of the drive include trips to Bali and Singapore and appliance showcases. FGU, the non-life insurance arm of the Ayala Group of Companies, is now a direct subsidiary of the Bank of the Philippine Islands,

'NUCLEAR TRADE WAR'

WTO ruling raises heat in EU-US dispute

BRUSSELS—World Trade Organization experts ruled Friday that a US tax break law violated trade rules, informed sources said, raising the threat of an explosive dispute with the European Union.

The confidential interim ruling, if confirmed throughout lengthy WTO procedures, could set the stage for the European Union to impose up to $4 billion in sanctions on US exports early next year—a move that could spark retaliation from the United States..

The European Union challenged a US law that it said granted billions of dollars a year in tax breaks to major US exporters such as Boeing Co. and Microsoft Corp.

The WTO panel's interim ruling found that the scheme involved illegal subsidies and broke several trade agreements, the informed source said.

"This is a resounding defeat for the United States," one source said.

The WTO panel said it would recommend that the WTO's Dispute Settlement Body ask the United States to withdraw "without delay" subsidies it found inconsistent with an international agreement, the source added.

It would recommend that the scheme also be brought into line with international agreements on agriculture and with the 1994 General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, the source said.

Fred Murray, vice president for tax policy at the National Foreign Trade Council in Washington, conceded the EU had won.

"I have seen the opinion. It definitely does hold against the US. . . on several important points," he said.

But Murray complained the WTO panel ignored many of the arguments the United States made comparing its system of export tax breaks to European territorial systems. "The panel did not spend much time on that (and) in fact sort of relegated that to a footnote," he said.

The interim ruling was sent to Brussels and Washington for their comments. The final ruling will not be made public until Aug. 13, but no interim ruling in the WTO's short history has been substantially changed in its final version.

The United States then has the right to appeal. The European Union would not be in a position to impose sanctions until early next year.

In Washington, the US trade representative's office declined to comment on the WTO interim report.

"The United States will respect the confidential nature of the report and will not comment on its findings nor its implications at this time," the trade office said, echoing a similar statement from the Treasury Department.

A spokesperson for the European Commission in Brussels said the EU executive had received the report but had no further comment.

The ruling will fuel transatlantic tensions that are already running high because of EU antitrust objections to General Electric Co.'s planned $42-billion purchase of Honeywell International, various other trade disputes and President Bush's rejection of the Kyoto protocol on global warming.

The European Union asked the WTO last November to authorize a record $4 billion a year in trade sanctions on the United States if it won the tax break dispute.

But in a bid to lower tensions, the European Union and United States agreed last year to let the dispute work its way through the long WTO appeals process before WTO arbitrators began looking at the amount of sanctions they would authorize.

US Trade Representative Robert Zoellick warned during a European trip last month that if the EU carried out its threat to impose $4 billion in sanctions, it would be like using a "nuclear weapon" on the trade system.

Zoellick warned then that the United States could respond by taking aim at European tax systems and that the row could interfere with attempts to launch a new round of global trade negotiations later this year. *Reuters*

American, attendants break off union talks

DALLAS—American Airlines and its flight attendants union recessed talks in a contentious contract dispute on Friday and the union said it was not optimistic about chances for a resolution before a July 1 strike deadline.

The latest round of talks aimed at resolving a nearly three-year dispute over a new contract were recessed by federal mediators until Thursday, just three days before the strike deadline, both parties said.

"At this point, we are not optimistic that an agreement can be reached before the (strike) deadline expires," John Ward, president of the Association of Professional Flight Attendants, said in a statement.

The world's largest airline, a unit of Fort Worth, Texas-based AMR Corp., and the Association of Professional Flight Attendants started their latest talks on Wednesday. A union spokesperson said they remained divided over key issues, including pay increases.

However, an airline spokesperson said American remained hopeful of an agreement before the strike deadline.

The union's 23,000 members would be allowed to walk out on July 1, although the airline and industry analysts have said they expect President Bush to use emergency powers to delay any strike by up to 60 days. *Reuters*

Mercosur leaders agree to lower regional tariffs

ASUNCION, Paraguay—Leaders from the Mercosur trade bloc pledged during a one-day summit to strengthen their economic integration, lower regional trade tariffs and expand commercial ties with the rest of the hemisphere.

Friday's meeting came just days after a sag in regional financial markets as Argentina's economy minister, Domingo Cavallo, sought to pull his country out of a three-year recession.

Several leaders in the trade bloc expressed concerns over Cavallo's decision to introduce a special exchange rate for Argentine exporters, the latest in a series of disputes affecting Mercosur in recent months.

Still, the presidents of Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay stressed their continued commitment to integration, noting in a statement that in 10 years it has "consolidated itself as a vital instrument to promote democracy, economic development and social equality in the region."

Associate members Bolivia and Chile also voiced their support to strengthen their economic ties to Mercosur, the world's third-largest trade grouping with more than 200 million people and economies totaling $1 trillion.

Leaders also agreed to move toward reducing Mercosur's common external tariff, which slaps import taxes on goods produced outside the region. Norberto Ianelli, an Argentine trade official, said the average tariff would be slashed from 13.5 percent to 12.5 percent in January.

Mercosur leaders also reiterated their support for a hemisphere-wide free-trade accord set to be completed by January 2005. The presidents also stressed their hopes for progress in trade talks with European Union (news—websites) officials, slated for July.

Attending the summit were Presidents Fernando de la Rua of Argentina, Fernando Henrique Cardoso of Brazil, Luis Gonzalez Macchi of Paraguay and Jorge Batlle of Uruguay. Neighbors Chile and Bolivia were represented by Ricardo Lagos and Hugo Banzer, respectively.

Also taking part as special guests were Joaquim Chissano of Mozambique and Hugo Chavez of Venezuela. *AP*

Downgrades, warnings hit US apparel retailers

NEW YORK—Shares of specialty apparel retailers suffered a sector-wide fallout on Friday as a raft of analyst downgrades and company warnings fueled concern that the US economic slowdown would dent second-quarter profits and hit June same-store sales.

The Standard & Poor's Specialty Retail Index closed down 3.07 percent at 1,102.76 on Friday. The index was down by about 10 percent from its 52-week high of 1,223.05 hit in July 2000.

"The sell-off in specialty retailers I think comes from general concerns about the levels of sales momentum in June," said Barbara Miller, an analyst at Goldman, Sachs & Company.

"Sales trends are generally weak across the board," she added.

Miller said May had seen a round of heavy markdowns by the specialty retailers, a move expected to continue well through June as the stores battle clear out dead Spring and some Summer merchandise.

Leading the rout was US No. 1 apparel retail chain Gap Inc., which fell 4.5 percent to close at $32.03 on Friday. Gap dived more than 8 percent early in the session, a day after saying it would cut up to 700 jobs from its headquarters staff of 10,000.

Gap also said it would scale back store expansion plans as it tried to revive lagging profits and sales. The San Francisco-based retailer also warned it would take a second-quarter charge of $10 million to $20 million, or 1 to 2 cents a share.

The broader S&P 500 Retail Index finished down 1.19 percent at 895.51, after dipping as low as 889.94 in the trading session, versus a 52-week trading high of 957.73.

"Gap's announcement is very significant and if you add the pieces together we have a very mixed environment and these stocks are also not cheap anymore," said Steven Richter, an analyst at Tucker Anthony Capital Markets.

"The current environment is very weak. We have a consumer that's facing a slowdown and there's a risk to (earnings) in the second quarter and in the second half of 2001 for a number of these companies," Richter added.

The day's decliners also included women's apparel retailer AnnTaylor Stores Corp., which dropped nearly 5 percent after Robert Stephens retail analyst Janet Kloppenburg downgraded the company's stock to a market perform from a buy.

AnnTaylor shares ended Friday down 4.89 percent at $36.

Kloppenburg said the current slowdown in consumer demand led her to believe that AnnTaylor's June same-store sales—or sales at stores open at least a year—were trending near the 9.6 percent decline seen in May.

Shares of men's retail apparel chain Men's Wearhouse dropped by 8.91 percent to finish at $26.69 on Friday, after the stock was also downgraded to market perform from buy.

Shoe and apparel market Kenneth Cole Productions fell 20 percent earlier on Friday, jolted by an investment downgrade after the company forecast lower than expected earnings for the second quarter.

Kenneth Cole's stock ended down 19.24 percent, or $4.56, at $19.14 on the New York Stock Exchange. The company, which sells through department stores and free-standing retail stores, said it expected its revenues to be hurt by slower replenishment of classic styles.

"The department stores really want this brand to work. This is purely a very challenging climate," said industry analyst David Lamer of investment banking firm Ferris, Baker Watts.

New York-based Kenneth Cole said on Thursday that it expected to report earnings per share for the second quarter in the range of 17 to 19 cents per share. *Reuters*

EU committee to consider GE deal

BRUSSELS—A European Union advisory committee will consider General Electric's proposed $42-billion purchase of Honeywell International on Monday against the background of a rising chorus of criticism from the United States.

The 15 members of the European Union, all of which will send representatives to the meeting, have been inundated with information from all sides in recent days, and informed sources say they may need time to digest it.

Adding to the pressure is continuing intervention and comments from top US officials—President Bush, members of his Cabinet, Federal Reserve Board Chair Alan Greenspan and members of the Senate.

The representatives of the 15 EU countries will meet the Merger Task Force, made up of Commission experts who are reviewing the acquisition. Details of the meeting are shrouded in secrecy but informed sources say it will start at about 9 a.m. on Monday.

The countries are weighing the commission task force's 122-page draft decision recommending rejection of the deal, along with GE's own final offer of remedies.

In addition, GE spokesperson Louise Binns said from company headquarters in Fairfield, Connecticut, that its representatives were meeting EU countries "to answer their questions and explain why we believe our final offer" met the commission's concerns.

Nonetheless, few doubt that eventually, the advisory committee will back the commission task force and it is very possible a decision will be reached on Monday. But it is also possible that dissent and doubt may push the decision beyond Monday, the sources say.

That is because some countries, which have listened carefully to GE as well as to the commission, may want time to reflect on all they have learned.

GE has offered to sell Honeywell avionics assets that generate $2.2 billion annually and to place some restrictions on GE Capital Aviation Services, which buys, sells and leases airliners.

But GE president Jeffrey Immelt said the offer fell short of what the European Commission said it needed to overcome legal barriers to the deal. *Reuters*

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Study says recession may be under way

NEW YORK—The world's largest economy may have recently entered a recession, according to The National Bureau of Economic Research, the official arbiter of US business cycles.

But NBER, which only dates recessions and recoveries at least six months after their onset, says economic data is not sufficiently weak yet to merit a formal determination that the decade-long economic expansion is officially over.

"The data normally considered by the committee indicate the possibility that a recession began recently," NBER said in a report released on its website, http://www.nber.org/cycles/recessions.html, earlier this week.

"But the economy has not yet declined nearly enough to merit a meeting of the committee, or the determination of a peak date," said NBER, which has plotted US business cycles dating back to 1854.

NBER's tone was markedly different from an April report that said "nothing in the data is yet anywhere close" to prompt an inquiry into whether the economy was now contracting.

While many economists define a recession as two straight quarters of declining gross domestic product, NBER sees a recession as a significant decline in industrial production, employment, income and trade lasting more than a few months.

From a September peak, US industrial production has contracted for eight straight months by 3.9 percent, displaying weakness comparable to the 4.6 percent, six-month slide during the 1990-91 recession, according to NBER.

But a second key determinant of recessions, US non-farm employment, has not yet declined substantially enough to merit a formal recession inquiry, NBER says.

US non-farm payrolls fell 182,000 in April and another 19,000 in May, compared with a total decline of about 1,900,000 workers in the 1990-91 recession.

"The data continue to suggest that the only substantial declines in real activity in the US economy are in manufacturing," NBER said.

"Broader aggregates, such as employment and real retail sales, have stalled in recent months, but have not fallen significantly."

NBER officially determined the July 1990 onset of the last recession only in April 1991. The bureau set that recession's March 1991 conclusion only in December 1992.

While any NBER determination might be months away, the Economic Cycle Research Institute (ECRI), a separate firm that tracks business cycles, says available data suggest a recession as defined by NBER has probably already begun.

"The indicators that define an official recession in this country have never been this bad without a recession. So either we are in a recession right now or we are in the worst non-recession ever recorded," said ECRI research director Anirvan Banerji. *Reuters*

US earnings warnings season peaks

NEW YORK—The number of profit warnings issued by US firms soared this week as the so-called pre-announcement season took off in anticipation of the end of the second-quarter earnings cycle.

The disappointing forecasts came from a variety of sectors, fueling investor concern that the earnings recession would drag on into the second half of the year.

Among the big names warning of lower-than-expected results this week were food service manufacturer ConAgra Foods Inc., American Airlines parent company AMR Corp., No. 3 drug maker Merck and Co., newspaper publisher New York Times Co. and high-end shoe and apparel retailer Kenneth Cole Productions.

The troubled technology sector also delivered on profit warnings, with the No. 1 supplier of testing equipment for semiconductors, Teradyne Inc., telecom equipment maker Tellabs Inc. and the largest contract manufacturer of electronics, Solectron Corp., all lowering guidance this week.

The warnings caused a broad sell-off of US stocks, with the Dow Jones Industrial average falling 0.2 percent for the week. The Nasdaq and Standard & Poor's 500 index each rose modestly, gaining 0.33 and 0.9 percent, respectively. The vast number of firms lowering guidance spurred investor hopes that there would be another cut in interest rates when the Federal Reserve's policy-setting committee meets next week.

There were 38 new profit warnings issued this week, compared with 25 last week, bringing the total number of publicly traded firms lowering guidance for the quarter to 550. In the same period the previous quarter, 598 firms had warned, according to research firm Thomson Financial/First Call, which tracks company earnings.

Of the warnings, 36 percent involved technology companies, down from 39 percent in the last quarter, First Call said.

Of the companies that make up the Standard & Poor's 500 index, 137, or more than a quarter, have warned of lower-than-expected results, compared with 136 in the last quarter and 23 in the year-ago period. *Reuters*

Fears of fresh unrest grow in Korea

SEOUL—Fears of a fresh wave of labor unrest were growing in South Korea Saturday with a militant umbrella union calling for a general strike early in July focusing on key export industries.

The Korean Confederation of Trade Unions on Friday decided to launch the "second phase" of a general strike next month at major firms, including Hyundai Motor, Kia Motors, Daewoo shipyard and other heavy industries.

KCTU will also conduct a "vote of confidence" on the government of President Kim Dae-Jung among its 600,000 strong members employed at major manufacturing firms, starting next week, according to a union statement.

Union members were told to wear ribbons with an inscription urging Kim to step down.

The statement called for all members to lay down tools on July 5 as a prelude to the second strike.

KCTU, renowned for its militancy, has led many violent labor protests in the past.

Recent crackdowns on strikes, especially the June 4 break-up of a sit-in at the Hyosung Co. petro-chemical plant in the southeastern industrial city of Ulsan, enraged workers.

There have been clashes in the city over the past two weeks, leaving scores of workers and riot police injured.

The first phase of the general strike began June 12. Strikes at the country's airlines ended, but several hospitals remained crippled.

KCTU is demanding an end to the government's "heavy-handed" labor policy and the ongoing manhunt for union leaders including its president Dan Byung-Ho.

It wants a five-day workweek and immediate parliamentary approval for pending reform bills, especially those aimed at protecting maternity leave and improving private school education. *AFP*

Multiple currencies breed corruption

NEW YORK—History suggests that multiple currency regimes like Argentina's two-tiered foreign exchange system distort economic activity, invite corruption and in some cases can cause mass amounts of foreign reserves to vanish overnight.

France, Italy, Egypt, Brazil and Venezuela all tried setting different foreign exchange rates for different areas of their economy, but soon learned that a single exchange rate determined by financial markets was the only way to build credibility for a nation's currency.

"A currency system depends on confidence. Once a government starts using gimmicks to stabilize its system, it runs the risk that individuals will decide that maybe this currency system won't last very long, creating the opportunity to make a run on the currency," said Richard Marston, professor of finance at the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania.

"It's a very simple step down a road that could lead to disaster. The opportunities for fraud under a dual currency system are tremendous."

Argentina now has two exchange rates—one for domestic transactions that Argentines will use when they buy groceries or pay rent with which one peso equals one dollar, and another for trade that applies only to exporters and importers.

Under this new system, for instance, a grain exporter would receive 1.0748 pesos for every dollar sold abroad, raising the grain exporter's revenues and making his goods more competitive in markets like Brazil and Europe.

But experts say the measure, which amounts to a 7-percent subsidy for exports and a tax on imports, is a form of capital control that creates massive opportunities for corruption.

Export-import firms might seize the opportunity to play accounting tricks to skirt paying the import tax, paying a friendly face at the Customs department to turn a blind eye to the fiddling.

"Looking at the experience of other countries, there are incentives for an under-invoicing of imports and an over-invoicing of exports," said Mohamed El-Erian, a fund manager at Pimco and a former IMF official who authored a study on multiple currency systems.

Moreover, as foreign investors demand a higher cushion to guard against the possibility of further changes in the system, interest rates are likely to rise.

Some economists say a rise of one percent in average interest rates will wipe out any benefit to the government from import subsidies. *Reuters*

Singapore to build futuristic homes

SINGAPORE—Singapore is planning to build futuristic new public housing apartments with remote controlled appliances, automatic lights and room-to-room computer networks, according to a news report.

Families in the new "information-hub" homes can play online games with each other, swap music files and share a common printer from computers in virtually every room, according to The Straits Times.

For several years, this wealthy Southeast Asian city-state has been on a drive to become a computerized society in order to cash in on what the government calls the "knowledge-based economy" of the 21st century.

Residents in the new Housing and Development Board or HDB apartments would be able to control their appliances from any room with hand-held wireless devices, the newspaper said.

Some of the homes would come with motion detectors that automatically switch on lights and air conditioners, it added.

More than 80 percent of Singapore's 4 million people live in HDB apartments in high-rise blocks that tower over much of the island's landscape.

Singaporeans are urged to do everything from grocery shopping to paying their taxes online. The government is working to link all homes, schools and businesses into a high-speed cable computer network called "Singapore ONE."

One of Singapore's taxi companies announced this week that it was outfitting some of its cabs with Internet connections to let passengers log on while they ride.

The Straits Times report did not say when the first of the new "wired" homes would be completed. The HDB spokesperson could not be reached for comment Saturday. *AP*

Nissan denies abandoning workers

TOKYO—Nissan Motor Co. Ltd.'s restructuring has not resulted in the dire consequences for employees and suppliers that some doom-mongers had predicted, the president of Japan's second-ranked carmaker said Thursday.

"We did not close the plants and abandon the people," Carlos Ghosn insisted when asked about the "dark side" of the Nissan revival plan at the company's annual shareholders' meeting.

Under the hard-hitting restructuring plan launched in October 1999 after French carmaker Renault became the major shareholder in May that year, three Japanese assembly plants have been closed, involving 5,200 jobs, he said.

Of those, 3,480 agreed to be transferred within the group, 420 were still employed at the plants but doing jobs other than vehicle assembly, while the remaining 1,300 left the company, the Nissan boss said.

About 100 of those who quit took normal retirement but the other 1,200 had refused to be transferred.

"We helped them find jobs locally, working with local authorities and also other local companies," Ghosn said. However, he added: "I cannot tell you today how many of them did not find a job."

The shareholder who put the question had claimed that 500 workers were still unemployed after leaving the largest of the three closed plants at Musashi-Murayama in the western suburbs of Tokyo. *AFP*

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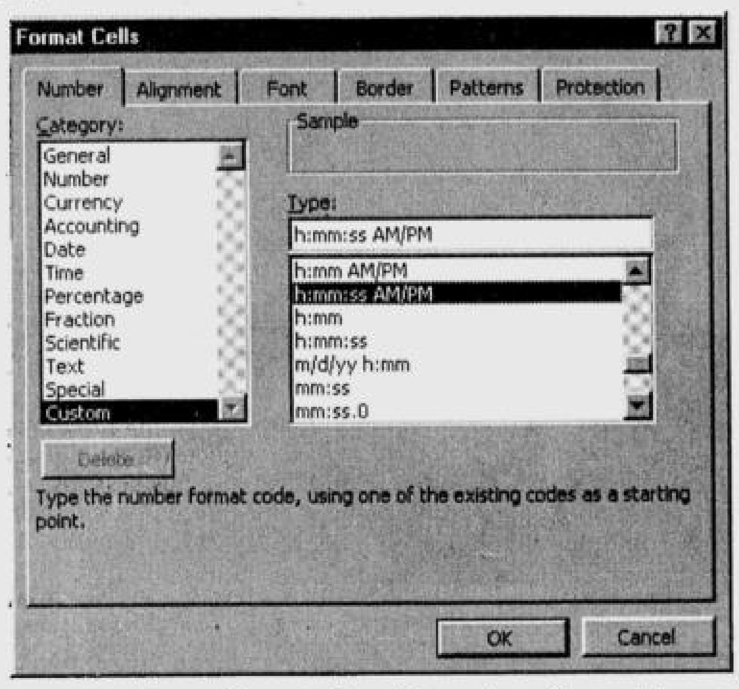

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Type the number format code, using one of the existing codes as a starting point.

SOMETIMES you will have to place dates or days of the week in your Microsoft Excel worksheet. You can automatically generate one or the other by using the tools under "format cells."

Automatic generation of days in MS Excel

BY JERRY LIAO

POWERTIPS

IF you have a column of dates, would you want to have a column listing that would automatically provide the days of the week associated with them? If so, follow these steps:

(1) Select the column where the days of the week are to be displayed.

(2) Right-click your mouse button and choose "Format Cells."

(3) Click the "Number" tab then select "Custom."

(4) Choose any of the "Date Formats" and change the "Type" box to read "dddd."

(5) In your worksheet, type the cell number of your "Date" column to the newly created "Day" column.

(6) Press "Enter" and the days of the dates will appear.

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DISINI VS CONTRERAS CASE

Can e-mail be admitted as evidence in RP courts?

BY JOEY G. ALARILLA

WHATEVER might be the outcome of the libel suit filed by DotPH CEO Joel Disini against Interdotnet Philippines Fernando Contreras Jr., this could turn out to be a landmark case in recognizing e-mail as evidence in Philippine courts.

In the counteraffidavit filed by Contreras on June 19, printouts of two e-mail messages were included as Annex "20" and Annex "21."

Documents obtained by the INQUIRER show that the e-mail messages were cited to support the claim in the counteraffidavit that the case should be dismissed.

"When taken together with the attendant circumstances, it is evident that the complainant instituted the instant suit with no good motive other than to harass, vex and annoy me. In fact, it is ironic that complainant has had the temerity to bring the instant suit when it was he who had issued defamatory remarks against me," Contreras said in the affidavit.

Annex "20" was an e-mail dated April 20 addressed to the Philippine Internet Commerce Society, wherein Disini allegedly said "I think of these people as nothing less than a bunch of thieves," referring to "Jim Ayson's company," PHNET, and "JR Contreras' Interdotnet." Interdotnet is a wholly owned subsidiary of PSINET, and PSINET is now filing for bankruptcy.

The other message cited was dated June 6 and was e-mailed to hatchlings@yahoogroups.com, a mailing list for individuals engaged in providing capital to Internet- and e-commerce-related startup firms.

"These are both public fora, as copies of his electronic mail are sent to all the members of the group in the respective Internet addresses," the counteraffidavit stated.

Disini is seeking $1 million in moral damages and $1 million in exemplary damages from Contreras, based on documents obtained by the INQUIRER. Disini filed the libel suit, with I.S. No. PSG 01-05-10672, on May 29 at the Office of the City Prosecutor in Pasig.

The INQUIRER tried to reach Disini and DotPH for comment regarding the e-mail messages, but they declined to issue a statement.

Meanwhile, a pioneer in Philippine cyberspace law said in a telephone interview that the E-Commerce Act of 2000 now provides for the admission of e-mail as evidence in court. The lawyer was talking about the admissibility of e-mail in Philippine courts in general, and was not commenting on the merits of this particular case.

"Because of the E-Commerce Law and the IRR (implementing rules and regulations), the court at least now has a basis (for considering electronic messages as admissible)," said Josephine Victoria Tañada Yam, president of L@wyer.com Philippines Inc.

She said that one of the most recent Philippine cases that involved e-mail as evidence was filed before the passage of the E-Commerce Act.

This was IBM Philippines vs NLRC (National Labor Relations Center), a wrongful termination case involving IBM employees. The final ruling on that case was given on April 13, 1999.

She said that case "did not rule squarely on the admissibility of e-mail" in court.

"What's sad is that despite jurisprudence in the US regarding headers in e-mail, this was not even taken into consideration by the Supreme Court," Yam said.

She pointed out, however, that

CAN/ p.B18

HYPERLINKS

✓ Read the history and development of this story online at www.inq7.net by following these links:

Interdotnet chief files motion to dismiss $2-M libel case (June 20, 2001)
http://www.inq7.net/inf/2001/jun/20/inf_1-1.htm

Interdotnet chief expected to countersue DotPH CEO (June 18, 2001)
http://www.inq7.net/inf/2001/jun/18/inf_1-1.htm

DotPH CEO files $2-M libel case vs Contreras (June 8, 2001)
http://www.inq7.net/inf/2001/jun/08/inf_1-1.htm

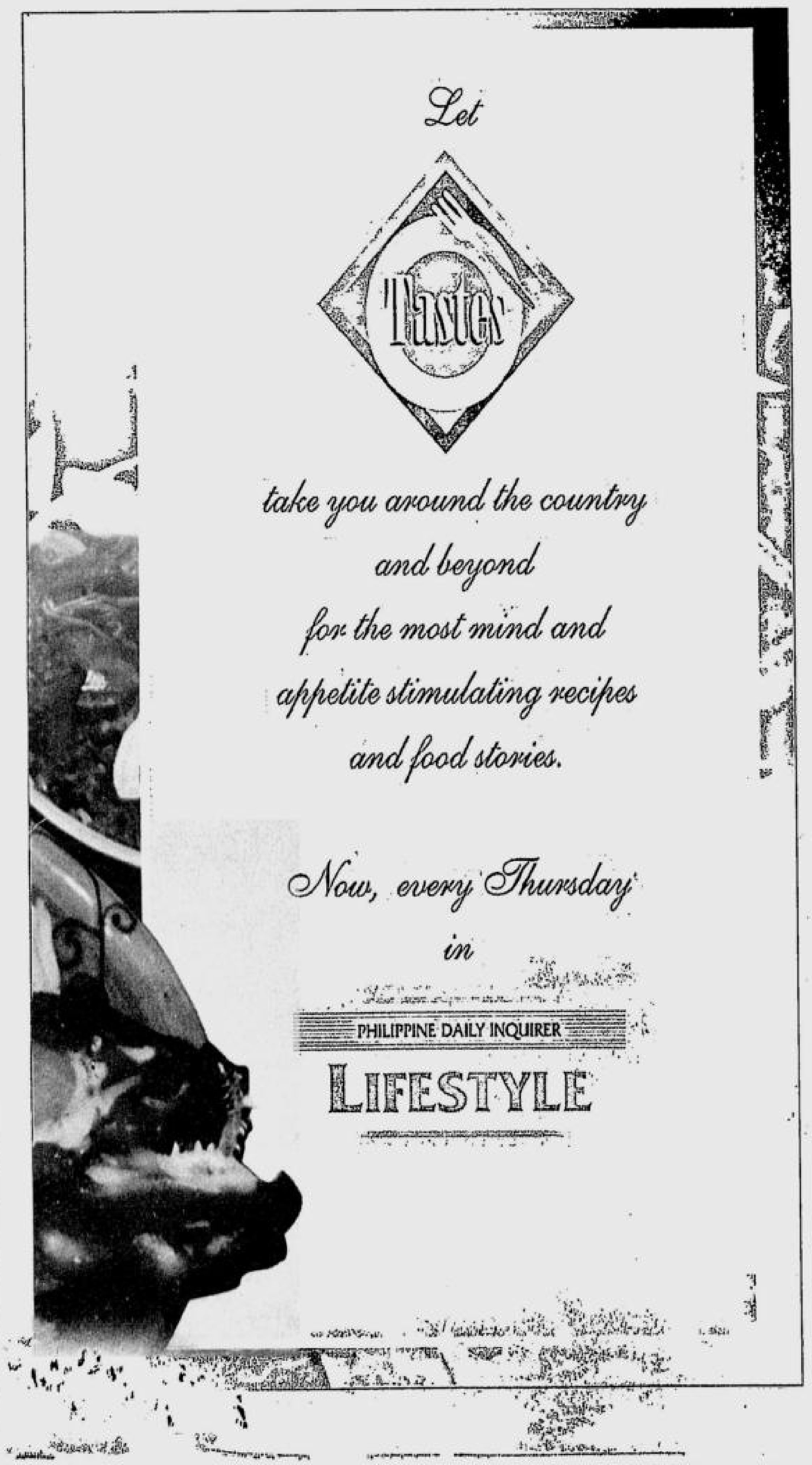
IBM hits back, says Oracle worried about market share

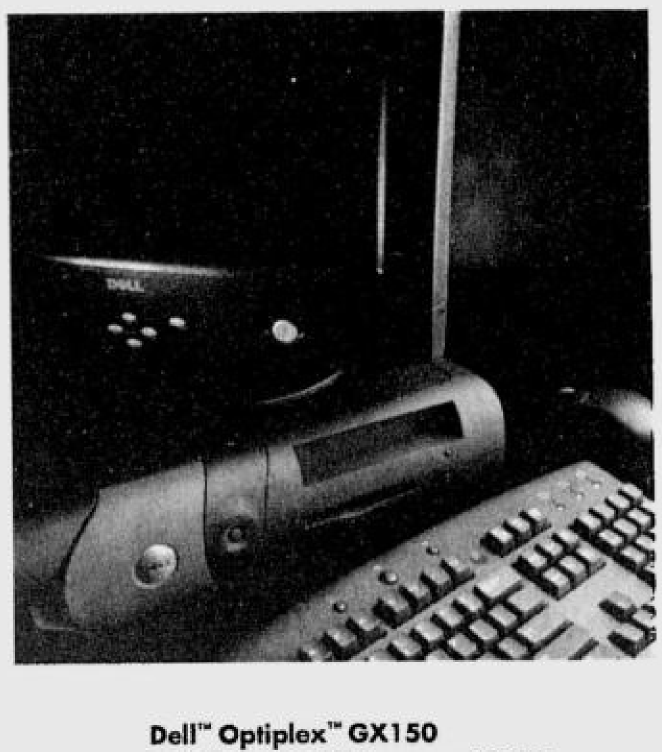
IBM was not surprised with Oracle's tirade on DB2 following its release of 9i last week. Company executives were rather amused by the way the No. 1 database vendor is hitting on them.

"Oracle is worried of IBM because we've made tremendous gains in market share in the recent years," said Mike Babin, director for worldwide data management sales and support. He added that IBM's market share has been growing in the so-called "distributed database space," considering that it only entered this space five years ago.

The worldwide database management systems (DBMS) software market in 2000—despite of a slowdown—was worth $ 8.8 billion, or a 10 percent increase over the 1999 figures, according to the Dataquest Inc. report this year.

The report indicated that the top three players during year 2000 were IBM, Microsoft and Oracle. The three accounted for 79 percent of all DBMS revenue in 2000. *Erwin Oliva*





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Managing bananas using technology

By Erwin Lemuel G. Oliva

IMAGINE exporting 20 million boxes of banana to different countries every year. That alone is an inventory nightmare. Thus this company, which is now considered the biggest banana producer in the Philippines, has begun to reinvent itself, dropping "old" technology in favor of the latest software and solutions.

Tagum Agricultural Development Co. (Tadeco) is a 6,236-hectare banana plantation in Panabo, Davao del Norte. It is a few hours' drive from the city of Davao. Only a few of us know that this company is the supplier of bananas to Japan, Hong Kong, China, Middle East, Russia, Singapore, Australia and New Zealand—all under the brand name Del Monte.

Originally a producer of abaca, Tadeco now manages at least five major warehouses to support its 16 packing houses within the plantation. According to the company, the sheer number of their produce has translated to three to six months of backlog in inventory work.

On top of that, telecommunications and data link facility in the banana plantation is dismal, according to Ed Villaver, vice president for MIS and corporate planning.

The company's financial systems were also short of being classified as "Jurassic" considering that they were programmed using Cobol, he added.

In 1998, the company initiated a P7-million comprehensive plan to strip its Jurassic peelings and move on to the digital age. Thus they went on hunting for a solutions provider that matched their needs.

Eventually, Tadeco bumped into Filipino software firm Match Data Philippines Inc. (which was the former name of Great Plains Philippines).

Tadeco required a good accounting system because of the high volume of transactions it handled. The company had relied on its aging Cobol-based accounting software to close the books, so to speak.

In 1998, the company settled for Microsoft Great Plains Dynamics, a suite of solution for doing inventory.

"At the time when we evaluated software, it was only Great Plains who offered features we were looking for our own system. Almost all our requirements were met," said Gigi Mercado, Tadeco MIS manager. "Dynamics takes on the whole accounting process."

Global Implementation System helped Great Plains implement the Dynamics system. After years of reengineering and training employees, the whole system finally went live three months ago.

Nowadays, making reports on inventory takes 30 minutes compared with eight hours using Cobol-based systems. And it only takes one person to do that. And that's not bad for a company with yearly sales of up to P2 billion every year.

Macapagal formally named IT body chair after reshuffle

By Erwin Oliva

PRESIDENT Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo has finally accepted the offer to head the Information Technology and E-commerce Council (ITECC). She replaces the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) secretary, who has been designated as co-chair along with a private sector representative.

The new ITECC structure was formalized under Executive Order (EO) 18 signed on May 25 by Ms Macapagal. EO 18 is essentially an amendment to portions of EO 264, which was signed by former President Joseph Estrada. EO 264 merged the National Information Technology Council and the E-commerce Promotion Council to create the ITECC.

The ITECC is currently the country's highest body overseeing policies and initiatives in the Philippines.

The new presidential directive also reorganized the ITECC, citing the "need to enhance, expand and accelerate decision-making and information and communications technology-related activities." The new ITECC will be composed of 10 members from government and eight from the private sector.

Government members include the Department of Science and Technology, the National Economic and Development Authority, the Department of Transportation and Communications, the Department of Budget and Management, the Department of Education, Culture and Sports, the Department of Interior and Local Government, the National Computer Center and the Commission on Higher Education.

Seven members—representing the academe, private industries and consumer groups—from the private sector will also be appointed. The private sector members, including the ITECC cochair from the same sector, will assume a three-year term, which may be extended to three more years.

The executive order has also transferred the ITECC secretariat from the DTI to the Presidential Management Staff (PMS) that will be headed by an executive director appointed by the President. Former IBM executive Virgilio Peña has been appointed as executive director, according to the PMS.

The offer to head the ITECC was announced during the e-Asean conference in Manila two months ago. Trade Secretary Manuel Roxas II and Roberto Romulo were co-chairs of the ITECC.

Empowering users through enhanced mobile services

By Lira Dalangin

EMPOWERMENTcan come in small packages. Consider the case of Marlyn Luna, a 30-year-old housewife who runs a mini-grocery between gardening and writing letters to her husband who works overseas.

Her modest liberation began when 10 months ago, on a trip to Singapore, she bought a Siemens C35 model replacing her old antediluvian analogue cellular telephone. She simply wanted to send text messages to her friends, a cellular phone application that has instantly become a killer especially in the Philippines among its younger generation of cellular phone users.

But her mobile phone offers more—features that drew her attention at once to activating them. She especially liked sending text messages with picture message, a built-in capability of the unit that uses bitmap images with the text. Although unacquainted with the Internet, it gave her confidence to know she has access to information when she needs them through WAP (wireless application protocol).

Now all it takes is a mobile phone for her to get her desired data on the Internet, send messages with less cost and make mobile business fun.

In a press conference last June 18 in Singapore, Martin Kinne, executive vice president of Siemens Mobile Phone in the Asia Pacific, announced they will launch the ME45, SL42 and SL45i models that will introduce the new industry standard for enhanced messaging, as well as a flexible memory capability and global packet radio service (GPRS), a step towrad 3G digital phone communications.

Luna, who admits she is satisfied with her old Siemens model, quickly snapped however, that she will consider replacing it if the new model can offer more helpful features.

Competition among mobile phone giants and consumer demand have led to the creation of some of the smartest, most compact handsets with integrated e-mail, Web services, personal digital assistant (PDA), gaming, MP3 functions and enhanced messaging service.

At CommunicAsia 2001 in Singapore, Siemens launched the SL45i, its first Wireless Java device to bring more user flexibility and opportunity for personalization. Fun and informative applications can be loaded straight on to the device by an effortless over-the-air download (OTA) technique by visiting WAP sites. Applications can also be downloaded from the Internet to a PC and can then be easily transferred to the mobile phone.

"Java is enabling users to download free application. This one is just taking to the extreme what SMS can do on a very cost-effective medium," says Kinne.

That mobile phones have become an intricate part of today's lifestyles, regardless of age, gender and nationality, is a veritable fact. In the Philippines, mobile phones have found its niche among the younger population, comprising 70 percent, who use them for sending short messages or texting.

Joseph Yii, Siemens general manager in Southeast Asia, observes that the Philippine market consists of a closely knit group that an over-the-edge sales point would be to introduce a more personalized type of SMS since this feature is the key factor that drives people to buy cellular phones.

The Philippines is the leading country in terms of using SMS all over the world, according to surveys. In all, about 18 billion short messages are sent in one month. With the growing demand, Siemens senior vice president for product operation, George Boulloy, predicts SMS will rate an average of one billion a day worldwide.

Thus, the Philippines is also seen as a robust market for the introduction of EMS, the new industry standard for enhanced messaging, that allows the use of bitmaps and tones to go with the text messages.

"It looks complicated but if you actually use it, you'll find out it's very simple, fun, and innovative," said Yii.

He describes this new mobile phone feature as the "message with a heart, or message with emotions enhanced by the picture and tones the user can pre-record or download popping up the screen just like the movies."

It's Siemens' newly launched mobile phone, ME45/3618, that has the EMS capability but Boulloy said other major manufacturers are adopting it such as Alcatel, Motorola and Ericsson.

"Siemens is moving according to where the market is going. The market is changing from delivering hardware to the people by giving them a phone with different designs and outstanding features, to now having a platform where you can generate new services regularly. This is a very new thing in the market, which means that it is very important for us to be able to offer to the end-users the additional opportunity of getting what they want and additional opportunities for us to make money at the same time," adds Boulloy.

At the end of the day, says Boulloy, it will still be SMS that will be the killer application in the Asia Pacific, especially in the Philippines, and all manufacturers can do is to enhance it to give users a variety of options, just like what EMS offers.

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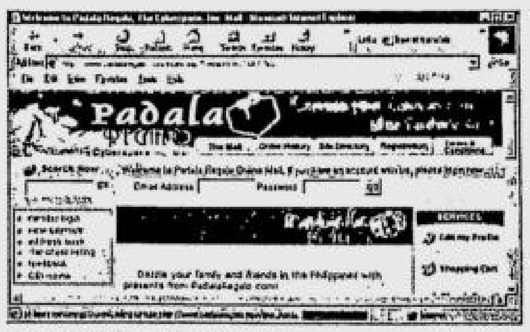
GMA NETWORK ACQUIRES ERP SOFTWARE

GMA Network Inc. recently signed up with Oracle Systems Philippines Inc., together with Andersen and Progressive Software Inc. (Prosoft) for the acquisition, licensing and implementation of its financial, purchasing, human resources and payroll systems. The system will also include business intelligence tools. GMA's acquisition of this back-office system shows the 51-year-old network's commitment to high standards in broadcasting. Signing the contract are (from left) Oracle Philippines managing director Bernard Yu, Progressive Software Inc. president Juan Miguel Mapa, GMA chair, president and CEO Felipe L. Gozon, GMA executive vice president and COO Gilberto R. Duavit Jr., and Andersen head of business consulting Medel T. Nera.

PadalaRegalo.com set for launch



www.padalaregalo.com

CYBERSPACE Inc. will formally launch its own online shopping mall—PadalaRegalo.com—during the E-Services Philippines exhibition at the Philippine Trade Training Center from June 28 to 30.

PadalaRegalo.com will allow overseas Filipinos to enjoy the ease, convenience and speed of online shopping. Those in the United States or Canada, Europe, the Middle East, Hong Kong, Singapore or Japan can visit the PadalaRegalo.com website, choose the items they want to buy, pay with their credit cards and the items will be delivered to their designated recipients in the Philippines.

The PadalaRegalo.com website accepts payments using Visa, MasterCard, American Express and Discover credit cards. It uses Verisign for its Secure Server ID and the services of a US-based provider for its payment gateway.

Can e-mail be admitted . . .

(From page B17)

with the passage of the E-Commerce Act, even the e-mail header (i.e. To: Joey Alarilla From: Jovi Yam) can be recognized as a form of authentication.

The IBM case involved notices of termination that were e-mailed to IBM employees. The law provides that written notice should be given to employees that will be terminated. Even though IBM presented printouts of the e-mail as evidence, the court said that the printouts were not authenticated by a certification from the IBM administration.

Meanwhile, in a separate telephone interview, Contreras clarified that he has not yet filed a countersuit against Disini. He said that he merely put into record in the counter-affidavit that he is reserving the right to file a separate libel case against Disini.

This series on Philippine Banking history is published in the business section of the Philippine Daily Inquirer in commemoration of the 150th year of the **Bank of the Philippine Islands** (BPI), formerly *El Banco Español Filipino de Isabel 2* (The Spanish Filipino Bank of Isabel II), the first bank to be established in the Philippines and Southeast Asia.

WTO draws up timeframe to settle drug patents row

GENEVA—World Trade Organization members drew up a timeframe Friday for efforts at ensuring that intellectual property rights would not prevent poor countries from getting badly needed drugs.

Delegates agreed the WTO's accord on trade-related aspects of intellectual property rights (TRIPS) must be "part of the solution and not part of the problem," Zimbabwean Ambassador Boniface Chidyausiku said.

Chidyausiku chaired the meeting devoted to dealing with public health crises.

WTO members agreed on Wednesday on the need for steps to ensure all members interpret provisions contained in the accord offering flexibility over access to needed medicines in the same way, he said.

Developing countries must feel safe they can use the provisions without fear of facing a trade dispute, he told a news briefing.

Chidyausiku said the discussions demanded by 33 African states were the start of a process, which some WTO members wanted to lead to a declaration at the Doha ministerial conference in November.

WTO members recognized the importance of patents in providing an incentive for development of new drugs but were also committed to ensuring the TRIPS accord does not hinder access to medications, he said.

"Many delegations said that the TRIPS agreement could provide sufficient flexibility to enable public health needs to be met, if it is properly interpreted and applied," he told reporters.

The accord contains provisions that permit governments to issue "compulsory licenses," allowing a competitor to produce or import a patented product under specific circumstances in a health emergency.

But delegates acknowledged concerns from poorer countries that the exceptions can be interpreted too narrowly, while some countries "come under undue pressure not to make full use of the flexibility," Chidyausiku added.

Washington has come under fire from health activists over its complaint before the WTO against Brazil over Brazilian patent laws with regard to its fight against HIV/AIDS.

Other issues to be considered as part of the process launched Friday include suggestions that WTO members should refrain from dispute settlement on the issue of intellectual property and public health, he said.

Some developing countries said, however, that they would make proposals to modify the accord if flexibility in the agreement was found to be insufficient, he added.

"There have been suggestions that if the clarification will not suffice there are some countries that would want to make improvements to the TRIPS agreement to take into consideration their concerns," Chidyausiku said.

The WTO secretariat will draw up a checklist of relevant issues to be discussed on July 25 followed by further talks at the WTO's TRIPS Council on Sept. 19.

The process aims to "seek common understandings of the flexibility in the TRIPS agreement" and to ensure members have "the necessary sense of security and legal certainty" to fully use the accord's provisions, the ambassador added. *AFP*

PHILIPPINE BANKING

Did you know?

... that it was with the encouragement of an American general that the second branch of *El Banco Español Filipino* was established in Zamboanga?

Gen. John J. Pershing, the famous American military governor of Zamboanga, encouraged the bank's management to open a branch in that part of Mindanao.

The branch was finally established in February 1912, a month after the bank was officially renamed "Bank of the Philippine Islands" (BPI).

That branch of BPI was eventually designated by the insular government as the official depository of funds for the province of Zamboanga and of the Zamboanga custom house. Gen. Pershing chose to locate his official residence on the second floor of the BPI branch in Zamboanga city.

150 YEARS

OUB to study DBS Bank's merger offer

SINGAPORE—Singapore's Overseas Union Bank said it would study a $5-billion takeover offer by bigger rival DBS Group Holdings Ltd.

In a statement issued late Friday, OUB said its board of directors would study the cash and share offer before making any further comments.

"The board is committed to following the course that is in the best interest of our shareholders," said OUB chair Lee Hee Seng.

"We will carefully study the DBS offer in the context of our strategic options. In the meantime, we advise our shareholders to refrain from taking any action in relation to their shares in the company that may be prejudicial to their interest," he said.

The board would appoint independent financial advisors to help make the decision, he added.

In a surprise move Friday, DBS announced its takeover bid for OUB, one of Singapore's four key domestic banks. The bid was likely to hasten the shakeout of the Singapore banking sector.

DBS offered S$1.14 (63 US cents) in cash plus 0.61 DBS shares for each OUB share, for a total value of S$9.50 per share.

This represents a premium of 11.1 percent over OUB's closing share price of S$8.55 as of June 21 this year and 1.83 times its book value as of Dec. 31 last year.

Analysts said this would put the total valuation of OUB at around S$9.4 billion.

The offer by the parent of DBS Bank, the largest in Southeast Asia, followed a bid by the Oversea-Chinese Banking Corp. Ltd. to buy Keppel Capital Holdings Ltd., owner of the smallest of the island's five local banks, Keppel TatLee.

Another Singapore bank—United Overseas Bank—has expressed interest in Keppel Capital but did not present any offer.

A merger between DBS and OUB would create the third largest commercial bank in Asia, outside of Japan, and one of the 50 biggest banking groups in the world, DBS officials said.

DBS said in a statement that the offer was "conditional upon greater than 50 percent minimum acceptance (by OUB) and certain other conditions."

The Singapore government has been pushing for consolidation in the local banking industry, saying only big institutions can compete effectively in a globalized economy. *AFP*

Americans see economic divide

WASHINGTON—Americans increasingly see an economic divide between the haves and have-nots, according to a new poll that also finds a majority of people dissatisfied with the country's direction.

The poll, released Thursday, indicated the economic boom of the 1990s helped the upper middle-class and wealthy, but had little impact on the outlook or financial condition of those who make less money.

"The boom has passed these people by," said pollster Andrew Kohut, director of the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press.

Overall satisfaction with the country's direction has fallen in the past six months, with 43 percent now saying they're satisfied and 52 percent saying they're dissatisfied. That drop-off from a 55-41 positive split in January was led by a decline among women and minorities.

The number of people who think the country is divided between those who have enough and those who don't has grown steadily and now is at 44 percent, up from 26 percent in 1988.

Just over four in 10 in the new poll thought President George W. Bush was mostly concerned with helping those who have enough, while one in 20 said he was interested in helping those who don't. Four in 10 said he was treating both groups about the same.

The president has pitched his recently passed tax cut as a way to help all Americans. But just over a third said they were looking forward to getting their income tax rebates, while almost six in 10 said they hadn't thought about it.

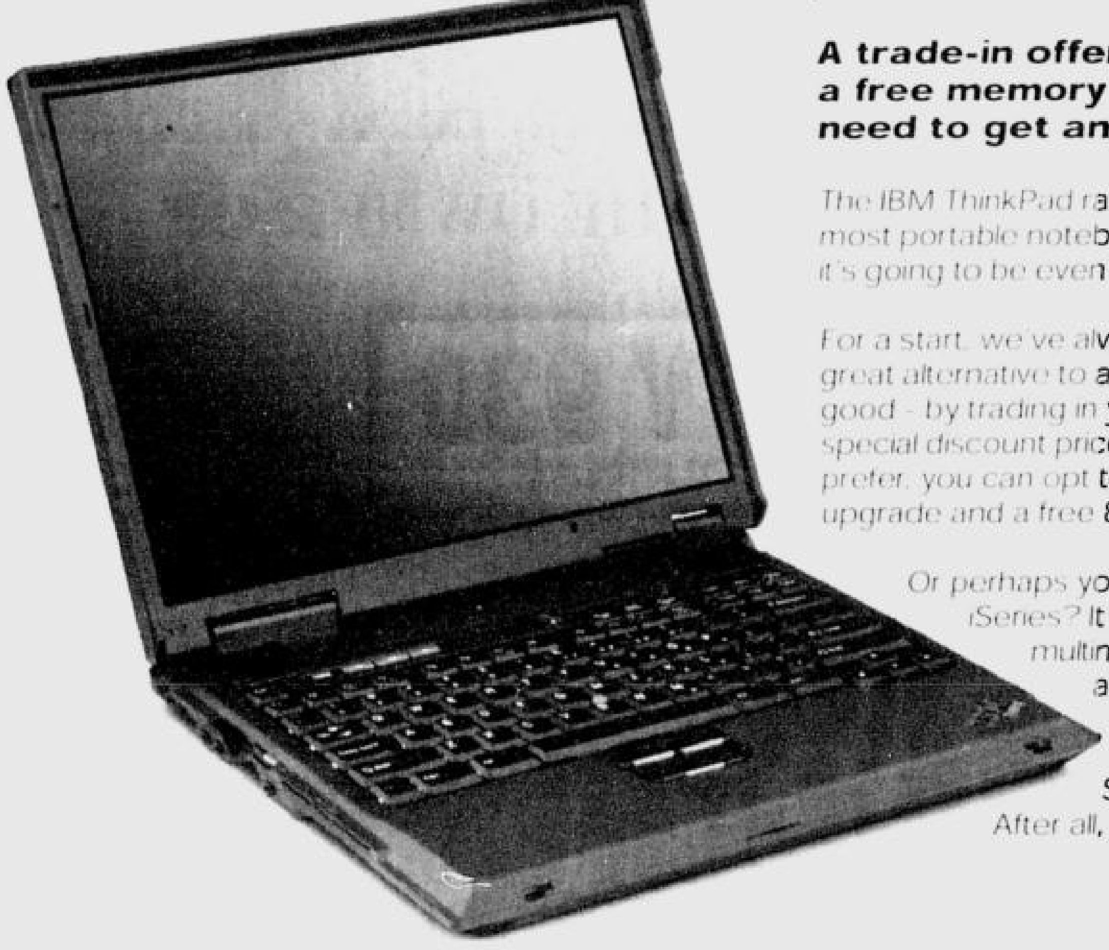
Less than half, 44 percent, now say they are in good or excellent financial shape personally, a drop of 8 percentage points from a year ago.

"The economic gains the middle class have made seem to be very much threatened by the credit crunch and by energy costs," said Kohut.

The people who say they have more debt than they can afford to owe have grown from a fifth of Americans in 1992 to almost three in 10 in 2001. More than a third of those who have family incomes of less than $50,000 said they had credit card and loan debts that were more than they could afford.

A fourth of people in the survey said not having enough money to make ends meet was the biggest problem facing them and their families. High prices were right behind that. The poll of 1,200 people was taken last Wednesday through Sunday and had an error margin of plus or minus 3.5 percentage points.

Those at the lower end of the economy saw few signs of economic progress. *AP*



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Banks get 1 year to meet loan rule

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas said Friday it was giving banks one year to comply with a stricter capital adequacy rule set to be implemented next month.

Central bank officials said they would enforce the new rule with the scheduled shift of the local banking sector to a risk-based capital standard.

BSP Deputy Governor Alberto Reyes said less than five banks were likely to miss the central bank's 10-percent capital adequacy ratio.

Starting July 1, the central bank will implement a new risk-based capital framework that will require banks to back up loans with a capital of up to 10 percent of their book value.

The capital provision varies depending on the risk associated with the loan. Loans without sovereign guarantees to local government units or state-owned corporations, for instance, must be backed by a full 10 percent of their risk weighting.

Also classified as high risk are loans to real estate developers, foreclosed assets and stock holdings.

"We will give them one year to adjust and comply with the new requirement. Anyway, less than five banks would be hit, excluding those under rehabilitation," Reyes said.

Another industry source, however, said banks that would be hit were naturally the big ones with a bigger exposure to high-risk instruments.

The BSP said the average capital adequacy ratio of the banking system could fall by as much as a percentage point with the risk-rating system. *Clarissa S. Batino*

Cutting social services not the way to go–ADB

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE ASIAN Development Bank on Friday cautioned the Macapagal administration against cutting its budget for social services, saying it should instead improve revenue collections to keep a tight rein on its ballooning deficit.

"Our concern is that the government should focus on the revenue side. Cutting the budget for social services is definitely not the way to go," ADB country director Gunther Hecker said in a news briefing.

Hecker stressed that the need to contain the government's budget deficit should be balanced with the needs of the domestic economy.

The Macapagal administration has scrapped the Estrada administration's strategy to keep on spending despite its budget deficit to pump-prime the economy. It is instead keeping a tight lid on its spending and has been cutting on certain basic social services to conserve its resources.

Hecker said the government should be more preoccupied with improving tax collections than watching its cash position.

He expressed confidence that with reforms being put in place, the Bureau of Internal Revenue and the Bureau of Customs should meet their targets, giving the government more elbowroom to pump-prime the economy.

"I think 2002 would be better than this year, but at the moment, everything depends on how it is developing in the US and Japan. In a situation like that, any kind of projection has some element of uncertainty," Hecker said.

Hecker said with a more decisive leadership, prospects for the country would be much better starting next year.

During the first four months of the year, the national government incurred a deficit of P36.72 billion, better than its internal ceiling of P38.27 billion. This figure, however, was above the P13.28-billion four-month deficit recorded last year.

AIB hopes to close LTO deal in July

By Elena R. Torrijos

AMALGAMATED Investment Bancorporation, an investment house owned by a consortium of Filipino and Singaporean investors, said Friday it expected to conclude by next month a P2-billion syndicated loan package for the computerization and modernization project of the Land Transportation Office.

AIB is lead arranger and financial adviser to LTO project proponent Stradcom Corp., a joint venture between Strategic Alliance Development Corp. of Cezar Quiambao and the group of furniture maker Jaime Aquino.

AIB president Rene Benitez said some documentation and administrative matters remained to be finalized. This, he said, should be completed within a month's time.

Benitez said a syndicated loan would likely amount to P1.8 billion but could be as much as P2 billion. Several domestic banks and one foreign bank had already committed to participate in the syndicate loan, which would carry no government guarantee unlike other build-operate-transfer and other variant projects of government, he noted.

The LTO computer project is an $80-million, 10-year build-operate-own contract.

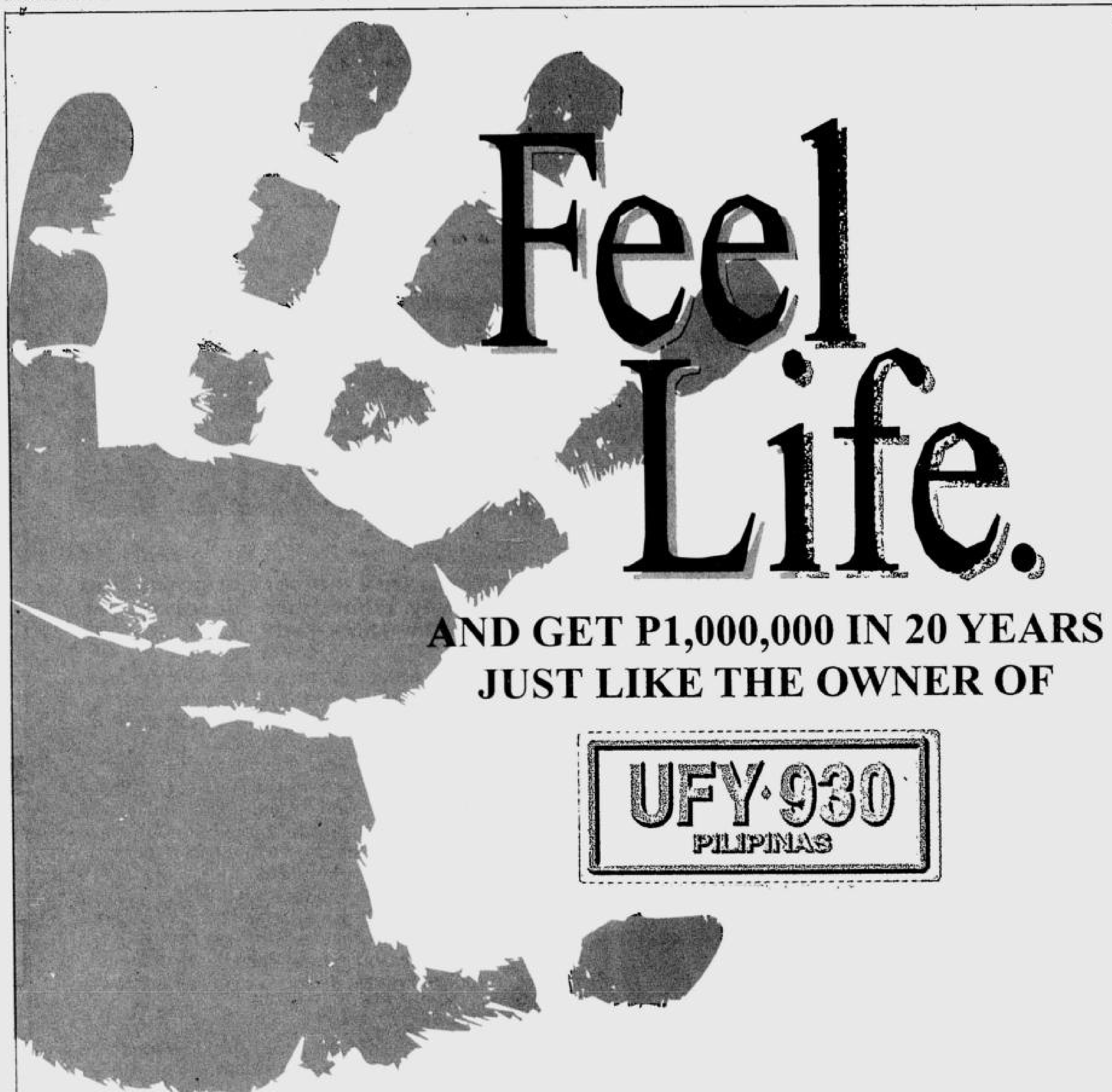
Stradcom also has under its belt an estimated $98-million, 10-year BOO contract for the computerization system of the Land Registration Authority and a contract to undertake passport processing for the Department of Foreign Affairs.

Stradcom's bid for the computerization project of the Securities and Exchange Commission, however, has recently been nixed.

Early last year, the board of International Finance Corp., the investment arm of the World Bank, approved a $20-million investment in Stradcom, including a $12-million equity investment and an $8-million-convertible preferred share offering.

On Thursday, AIB launched cashrounds.com, an Internet initiative that allows investors to examine a variety of high-growth businesses needing capital for expansion.

Cashrounds.com performs the following: attracts qualified companies and investors, screens and qualifies them, matches investment proposal and investors.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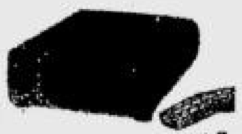

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BUSINESS*Monday*

MARGIE QUIMPO-ESPINO, Business Features Editor

GSIS head quits Equitable

BY DORIS C. DUMLAO

PEOPLE remember Government Service Insurance System president Winston Garcia as the outspoken bank director who has been urging the Go family to relinquish control of Equitable PCI Bank.

He publicly expressed dismay, during the bank's stockholders' meeting in April, when majority of the board shelved a plan to bring in a strategic investor to the bank.

It was also Garcia who elicited a public admittance of then impending resignations from the management, including that of Equitable PCI Bank president Wilfrido Vergara. It was also then that it was brought to the public's attention that SVP Clarissa Ocampo, the star witness at the impeachment trial against President Estrada, had quit her post (although she remains as a consultant of the bank).

Garcia then claimed that the resignations, including Vergara's, were due to his frustration with some members of the board who were trying to prevent the dilution of the Go family's stake in the bank.

The rehabilitation plan proposed by the Vergara-led management team, he says, should have been pursued as this was the best strategy to help the bank recover from the stigma arising from the alleged involvement of its former chair George Go with the money laundering activities of fallen President Joseph Estrada.

The event made Garcia stand as a champion of corporate transparency needed by the controversial bank. For others, he was an antagonist on the loose.

For Garcia, however, he was just doing his job of protecting the investments of the pension fund.

Last week, Garcia himself stepped down as director of the bank, which triggered a lot of questions: Is GSIS divesting its shares in the bank? Is he now at ease with the new Equitable PCI Bank management team? Is he henceforth assuming a low-profile position as far as the bank is concerned?

Aside from allowing him to concentrate more on the operations of GSIS, the GSIS head says the resignation from the board would, in fact, give him more freedom to

GSIS/ C4

GARCIA vows he will not stay quiet.

BMW's Gilbert

CEO: Being tough gets work done

BY ABIGAIL L. HO

"I'm a tough boss."

But this does not make BMW Philippines president Mark Gilbert any less approachable and friendly to his staff.

"I'm strict sometimes, especially when I passionately believe in something, but I would say I'm pretty approachable," he says.

MANAGEMENT STYLES

This New Zealand-born executive believes that the "the only way we'll grow our business is by growing the people."

That's precisely why he likes it when his staff bounces ideas off him just to get his feedback on things. They may not exactly jive all the time, but they usually arrive at very reasonable compromises.

"Although sometimes people approach me through an alternative route or person because they feel comfortable doing that. I respect that. They don't exactly have to come to me. But we do share points of view," he adds.

One of his staff members discloses that he likes arguing with his people, not to show them up, but to make them think for themselves and hear their ideas out.

"I can learn from the staff as much as they can learn from me. It's a partnership in business, especially now that we're only in our start-up phase," he says.

This 48-year-old sportsman has only been in the country for less than six months, setting up a company in turbulent economic and political waters, but he says he is very optimistic about the Philippine market.

"What we have here in the Philippines is a very good brand image. I think BMW has shown tremendous commitment to the Philippines by coming here at this time. It's nothing new, actually. BMW started out in Indonesia and Korea when the market was down," he adds.

Gilbert added that making the announcement to put up a representative office here right after Edsa Dos did not change anything in terms of their goals and expectations.

"We already put a stake in the ground saying we are here. There's not much difference," he stresses.

He also expressed much confidence and satisfaction in working with Filipinos.

"One of the big benefits about the Philippines is that everyone speaks good English so communication is not a battle like it is in other countries. My colleagues in Russia or Japan work through interpreters which makes it hard for them to put their personality behind their words," he says.

Being a very straightforward man, Gilbert said this kind of set-up will be very difficult for him.

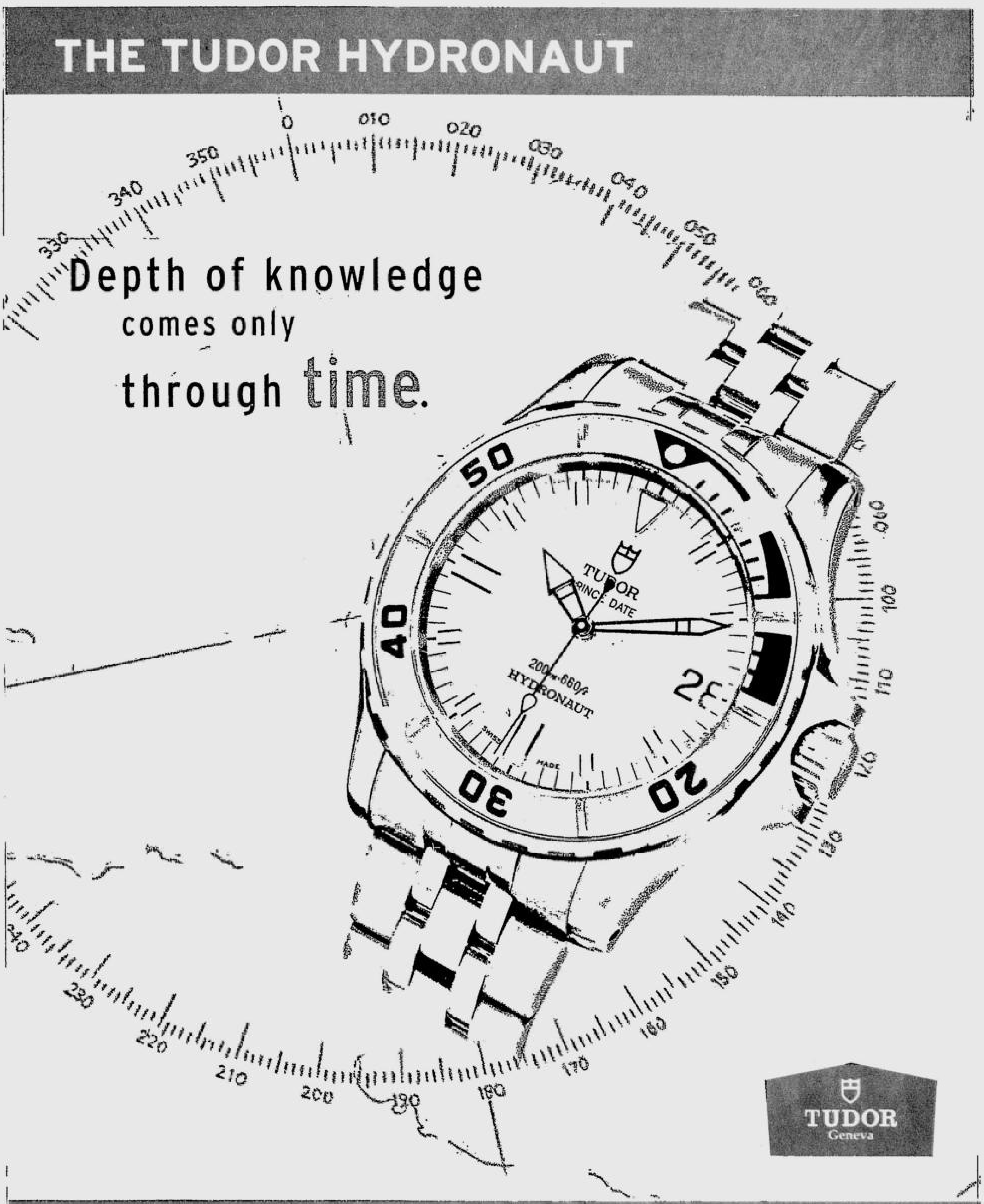
"I don't like beating around the bush. Speaking through another person would make it hard for me to express what I really mean," he adds.

Besides being able to directly talk to his people, Gilbert says another advantage is the "Filipino initiative" and personality.

"They don't have to be told what to do. They can usually decide for themselves. And their friendly and warm personalities make it easy for an outsider like me to be accepted," he relates.

With these in mind, Gilbert sees great promise in getting his people to do their jobs the best way they can, with the principle that "for them to be successful, they'll have to make the company successful first."

CEO/ C4



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MAP provides consultancy to national government

MAPping THE FUTURE

Augusto L. De Leon

THE MANAGEMENT Association of the Philippines recently organized to provide pro-bono consultancy services to various government agencies. This move is an indication of the private sector's positive response to the call of the Arroyo administration for greater civil society and private sector participation in the governance and development of the Philippine economy and society.

So the public and the government officials may be made more aware of the kind of thinking and advice some in the private sector might be dishing out to them, here are some examples.

Housing

Housing for the poor is one of the major thrusts of the current administration. Very few seem to connect the relationship of our laws on 'rental control' to the shortage in low cost housing.

There is and will be very limited private sector investment to build low cost housing if the investor cannot charge adequate rent to recover investment. Prior to the rental law, many employees upon retirement will use their retirement fund to build a few apartment units, so that they have retirement income.

With rent control, it no longer made sense to continue this practice. Retirement funds are diverted to consumption goods like buying a car or travelling abroad.

If we cannot amend the law, or if government estimates that government funding and programs are adequate to address the issue, it may wish to consider unlocking the frozen private assets in the form of urban titled land now being occupied by squatters.

To unlock these frozen assets and make available land for decent low cost housing within the city centers proximate to jobs, government may consider allowing owners of private land occupied by squatters to exchange the land they are not able to use for tax certificates.

These certificates, in turn, could be used to pay for their income taxes and other real property taxes over a period of time. The exchange values should however approximate market value of the property.

An alternative arrangement will be to establish an agency authorized to receive donations of squatter occupied land and for value of the donation be given a tax certificate that can be used as tax deductible expense in the calculation of income tax payments.

Traffic

Traffic is a daily concern of many. If one uses the North Expressway or the South Expressway and there is construction or accident that reduces the normal three lanes to only one or two operating lanes, we observe our traffic enforcers stationing themselves at the point of the bottleneck.

They are therefore unable to accelerate the speed of the vehicles at the point of constriction. In other places like the United States, when a similar situation occurs, the highway patrol station themselves about half a kilometer from the point of congestion and directs the traffic by making cars move on alternate lanes.

Vehicles are therefore able to accelerate and thereby pass through the bottleneck portion at greater speed, thus, increasing the throughput of vehicles passing the constricted point. This is something that can be done without additional budgetary requirement—it only means changing the way of doing things.

Economic development to increase Gross Domestic Production is essential for job creation. Very often, the first tendency of those responsible for economic development is to consider the lack of funding as the major hindrance to accelerating our economic development.

There is no doubt that investment funds are needed. However, as we reach the limits of available fund resources each year, we can look at ways and means to accelerate development by just looking at regulatory changes that could stimulate production of wealth.

One example is the fishing industry in Torril Davao. The port is a very ideal location for foreign-owned fishing vessels to use as a transit/stop over port—a place to refuel, unload, process, ship out by air their catch, buy provisions for their vessels, etc.

Increasing the docking of these fishing vessels will increase the income of the port, stimulate the local economy with their expenditures, increase the load of our transport system, etc.

But why are there no vessels using these facilities? One compelling reason is that fuel cost in the Philippines is much more expensive than the international price, so there is a clear advantage for them to refuel in Celebes, Indonesia, instead.

Why can we not allow a fuel tanker to dock in Davao and refuel vessels without having to pay the domestic price, which is heavily taxed? Let us make it easier for the cold storage plants to accept customs bonded storage of fishing baits which these fishing boats need to replenish regularly. Let us not discourage by taxing those who are using the port facilities.

Employment

Everyone accepts the high rate of unemployment in the country. As one of the policies adopted by government, entrepreneurship is the new vogue. The policy is indeed very sound in the light of the very low rate of investment in the economy that creates new jobs.

Unfortunately, while many pontificate about entrepreneurship, we seem to overlook the regulatory aspect of government that impacts on those who plan to respond to the government's call.

Let us take, for example, a review of the regulations that a 'street vendor' has to comply with. Step 1. Accomplish the following requirement: obtain a barangay clearance and lease contract; register name of proprietor and business name at the Department of Trade and Industry for sole proprietorship; register business at the BIR; if more than one employee, register at the SSS and the DOLE.

Having accomplished the above, one has to proceed to step 2, which is to obtain and accomplish an application form for business permit at the city hall. Submit the form for evaluation, get clearance from five offices, secure a Mayor's permit.

To secure a Mayor's Permit, one has to go to the Engineering Department. Pay annual electrical permit, signboard, store inspection and mechanical fees. Under the fire department, there is the annual fire fee, storage fee and conveyance fee.

Add to the list the sanitary fee and health certificate to the health department. Then the entrepreneur has to submit the documents for encoding and acquire a 'permit place' something that is much like a car plate.

Do we expect a street vendor to be able to accomplish all the above? No one does, but the trade off is that they become 'illegal.' They fall prey to the law enforcers and so it has become common practice for the vendors to share their hard-earned income for the day to those who are empowered by the rules and regulations to leech on them. Where is the incentive for entrepreneurship now?

(This article reflects the personal views of the author who is a member and past governor of Management Association of the Philippines and chair of De Leon Consulting. The MAP Secretariat and the author may be reached via mapsec@,globe.com)

New group puts Cavite on new road to progress

THOSE who are old enough to remember are familiar with the roller coaster ride on the potholed highway of the narrow Manila-Cavite Coastal Road when it opened in 1975 up to the early '90s. After the rehabilitation by a Malaysian consortium, the road reopened in 1998, showcasing a modern and safe dual three-laned highway totaling 6.6 km.

At present, users of the road are unaware of the busy planning, financing and preparations and negotiations that are now going on to further transform the highway into an expanded premier road network.

This will eventually equal, if not surpass, the North and the South Luzon Expressways in terms of usefulness and importance.

Modern highway

A new Filipino corporation, Coastal Road Corp. (CRC), in partnership with the Public Estates Authority (PEA) through its PEA Tollway Corp. (PEATC), has envisioned the expansion of the road to become the most modern highway in the country.

The road project has three components, totaling 25.2 kilometers. The first, which was completed in 1998 by the Malaysians, is the upgrading and modernization of the old impassable road. This is referred to as R-1 for the existing 6.6-km stretch from the end of Roxas Boulevard in Parañaque City to Zapote in Las Piñas.

The second component is the construction of the 7.5-km highway that will link the Coastal Road to the South Luzon and C5 expressways.

The third component is the extension of R-1 from Zapote to Noveleta in Cavite, or an addition of 11.4 km to the network.

Both components will include interchanges to further improve the flow of traffic.

CRC, after a careful study and with the approval of the Toll Regulatory Board (TRB), elected to first pursue the third component, the extension of the existing coastal road from Zapote to Noveleta.

This option will entail some financial sacrifices for CRC and PEATC. However, the overriding reason of the CRC top management headed by Luis J.L. Virata is that this would be more beneficial to the travelers.

While it is true that the government has yet to complete the right-of-way acquisition needed to link up C5, CRC feels that doing the C5 component ahead of the Noveleta extension will be counter productive, as it would create traffic gridlock at the Zapote junction.

Imagine the rush of vehicles coming from South and C5 Expressways heading toward Cavite and Las Piñas using the linkup road, emptying toward the existing coastal road. Vehicles will find themselves all bundled up at the Zapote junction.

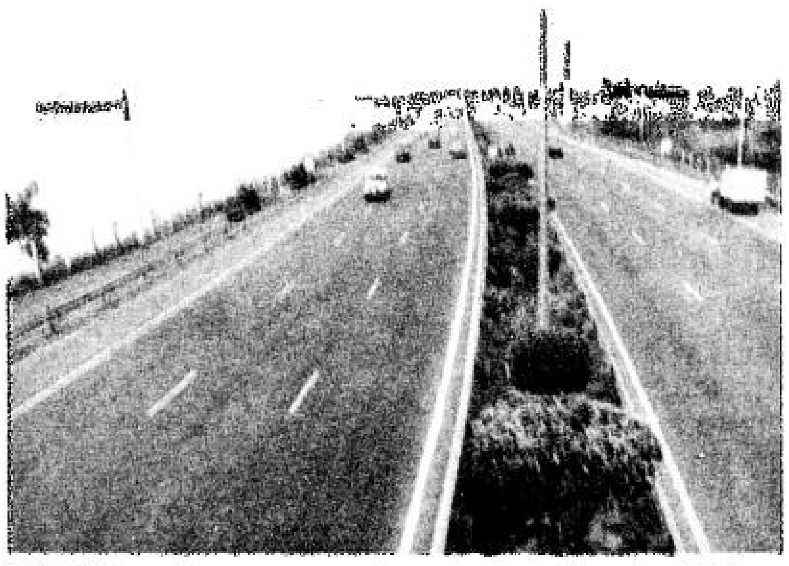
Although a study shows that bigger earnings from toll fees could be generated from the C5-South Superhighway 7.5-km linkup, the important thing to CRC is that travelers won't be caught up in a worse traffic jam.

Right of way

CRC feels that the first phase of the R-1 extension can be initially started because there are no right-of-way problems. This is from Zapote to Binakayan. From the Zapote Bridge to Bacoor, the two-lane extension runs southwest, crossing Kaingin River and proceeds along the coastline of Bacoor Bay.

It turns inland toward Binakayan, crosses the Imus River and passing over the General Tirona highway.

Going further southwest, the expressway then proceeds toward the same direction until it intersects the Noveleta Diversion Road.



COASTAL road showcases a modern and safe dual three-laned highway totaling 6.6 km.

The extension infrastructure includes construction of a new dual two-asphalt concrete carriageway with a 2.5-m asphalt-concrete (AC) hard shoulder, from Bacoor to Noveleta; two interchanges: Zapote interchange (trumpet type) and Kawit interchange (partial cloverleaf type); at-grade intersection at Noveleta; Toll Plaza and new Toll Collection facilities; and traffic road signs and landscaping.

The first phase of the reclamation work was expected to produce approximately 160 hectares of land, of which 60 hectares will be the right-of-way underneath R-1 Expressway Extension and the remaining 100 hectares will be excess salable land.

The financing of the project is currently being worked out by CRC with foreign financial institutions. The project will start as soon as the financing is available by the year 2002.

The TRB, meanwhile, is undertaking to complete the right-of-way acquisition for the linkup with C-5. Acquisitions will be financed through a foreign loan granted to PEA. To date, about 228,653 square meters of right-of-way were acquired.

Already, with the R-1 rehabilitation, business and industrial activities in Cavite, a key investment and population center, and in the rest of the Cavite-Laguna-Batangas-Rizal Zone or Calabarzon, site of several Export Processing Zones, has increased tremendously. So has the commuter traffic of workers from their homes in Cavite to their work places in Metro Manila.

Reduced travel time

Still, there is an urgent need to upgrade existing roads and create new ones to serve as the entrance and exit points of the area. The network, when expanded, will drastically reduce travel time between Manila and Cavite, as well as to nearby environs, thereby, spurring more developments there.

With better access to Metro Manila, Calabarzon's attractiveness as an area of investment will be enhanced.

The new partner of the government in this expanded project is CRC. CRC is a Filipino company controlled by businessman Luis J.L. Virata. The company, as of Dec. 31, 2000, recorded a consolidated capital of P1.4 billion.

Virata, a Caviteño, has had a long-held vision for his province—to convert it into a prime destination for business, which is moving southward from Metro Manila. However, Cavite's prospect as an economic alternate hub to Metro Manila is being hampered by the lack of the necessary safe and fast road network.

In the past, there were times when travel to and from Cavite was a dangerous and grueling experience. One would need to travel two to three hours on narrow and unmaintained secondary roads.

Virata's group approached a number of international companies to build a new road network toward Cavite. A Malaysian construction giant was one of them. The interest of the Malaysians was firmed up during the visit of Prime Minister Mohammed Mahathir of Malaysia to the country sometime in 1993.

It was the group of Virata that was responsible for obtaining the project for Majlis Amanah Rakyat (MARA) and Renong Berhad of Malaysia. The group has the record of building some of the most modern and longest expressways in Malaysia and some of its vital infrastructures.

When the Asian crisis struck in 1997, the Malaysian firms said they wouldn't be able to finish the other two phases of the Manila-Cavite Toll Expressway (MCTE) project. Virata expressed concern over the seriousness of this development to his dream for Cavite.

To prevent the total collapse of the project, Virata decided to acquire the 100-percent ownership of the local company organized by the Malaysians, United Engineers of Malaysia-MARA (UEM-MARA), by paying P950 million in cash, through CRC, from his personal resources.

Determined to pursue the unfinished portions of the project, CRC hired the internationally renowned consultants, Maunsell International, for the design and engineering works and Halcrow Fox as traffic consultant as well as the experienced local firm Geogenics as project consultant.

CRC feels that the road complex will provide a wide range of transport and development-related benefits to the government and to the nation as a whole.

More investments

Completion of the two other MCTE components will create a strong and positive impact on investments in Metro Manila and the Calabarzon area, spurring linkages that will support growth of trade and long-term employment opportunities for a growing labor force.

Local businesses will experience an increase in activity due to the increased customer flow within the area. Real estate values may rise to reflect the new attractiveness of Cavite as a residential area due to reduced transit time to and from Metro Manila.

The tourism industry will benefit, and in turn will support the growth of downstream and support industries such as small manufacturing businesses and restaurants.

Additional benefits to the economy will be achieved through a more efficient distribution of goods and services. The project also serves to improve general access to the two key international gateways of the country, the Ninoy Aquino International Airport and the Port of Manila. Rapid access to and from these ports to other areas of the country is essential for economic development.

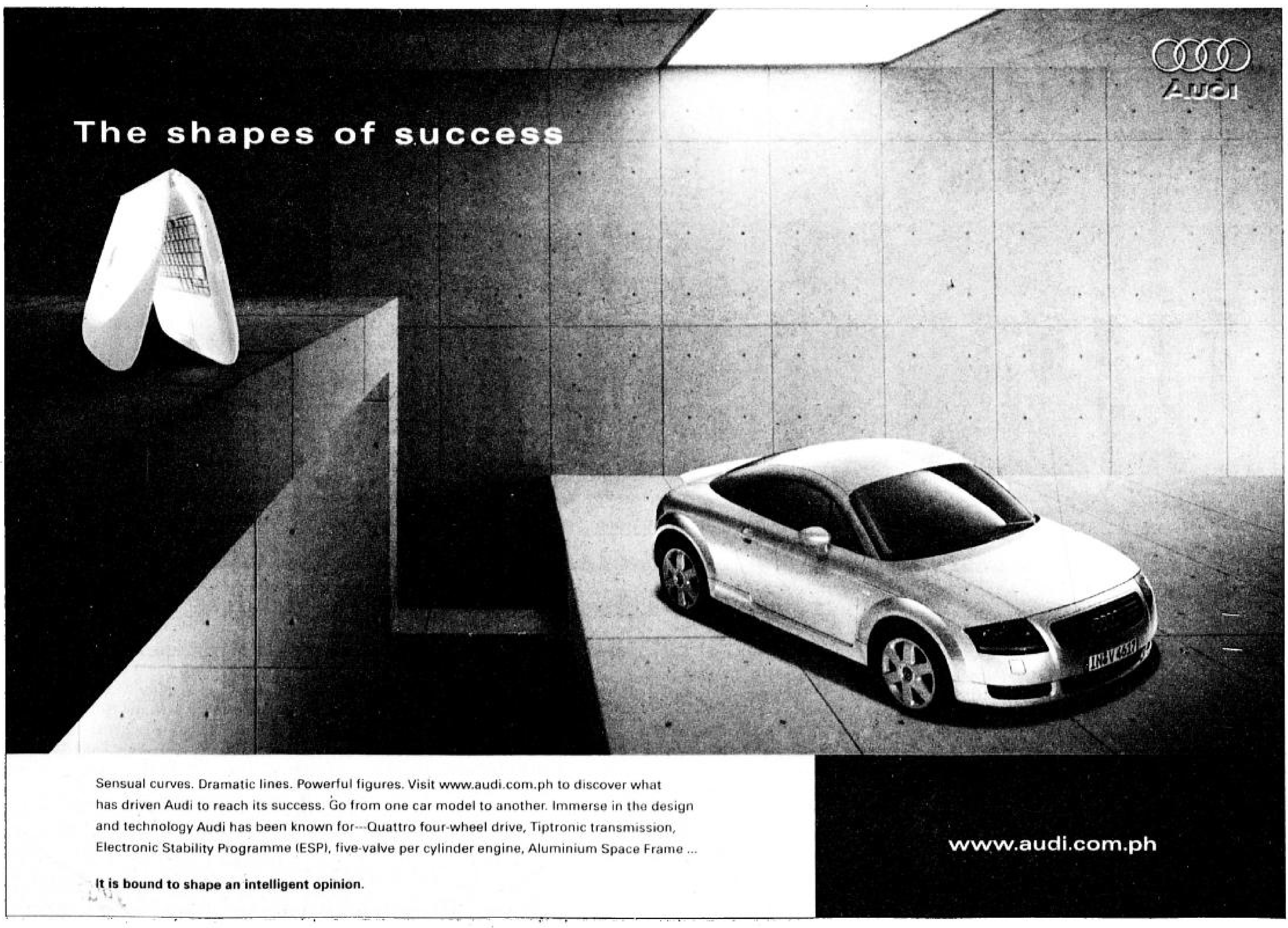
In July, 1996, PEA formed PEATC to operate and maintain the road complex for a period of 35 years. PEA holds the toll road franchise on reclaimed land.

PEATC has a manpower base of 231 personnel distributed in seven departments: the Toll Collections and Operations, Administration and Human Resources, Traffic Safety and Security, Internal Audit, Finance, Legal and Engineering and Maintenance.

Efficient tollway

The existing coastal road is considered as one of the most efficiently operated tollways in the country using a fully automated toll collection system with a collection efficiency of 99 percent.

The road boasts of such services as full landscaping, high-grade lighting system, fully automated collection system for better collection efficiency, 24-hour quick-response ambulance service, and a well-equipped clinic among others.



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What happens now to government spending?

By Dennis M. Arroyo

TO UNDERSTAND the policies of this government, take a look at the research from academe.

One of the debates in economics is whether it is wise for the government to pursue deficit spending. The argument for deficit spending goes like this. During an economic slump, firms are not willing to invest much. The slack will drag down over-all spending.

Does deficit spending work?

So what then will the government do? The Keynesian solution is for the state to spend more. For example, if the government spends more on housing, the construction companies earn huge sums. In turn, these firms buy more from the cement companies, the lumber shops and the electrical shops.

The effect doesn't stop there. The cement companies and electrical shops buy more from their suppliers. The virtuous cycle of greater spending goes on. This is called the Keynesian multiplier effect.

This is the case of deficit spending: government borrows money from the public to embark on those massive spending projects.

But the dark side of this is the crowding out effect. The state borrows money by selling Treasury bills or T-bills at high interest rates. Those who buy the bills will be paid back with some juicy interest revenue. However, banks base their interest rates on the rates offered by the T-bills.

When the state turns to deficit spending, T-bill rates rise. And so do bank interest rates on loans. That makes it harder for firms to borrow money and invest. The upshot is that heavy government spending chokes private investment. Government spending "crowds out" business investment.

Crowding out

So the question arises: In the Philippines, does government deficit spending indeed crowd out private sector spending?

There was one Ph.D. dissertation that investigated the question. The economist Dr. Gerardo Sicat reviewed it. He said that the thesis "confirmed that there was strong evidence of crowding out of private expenditure when government expenditure was introduced."

The thesis author was a Ph.D. candidate of the UP School of Economics named Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

The future President recorded another important finding from her research. She had wondered, which sort of government spending did more to stimulate the economy, tourism or social services? That is, would a peso put into tourism yield a greater or lesser multiplier effect than a peso put into social services?

At that time the Marcos government had spent much on big-ticket items like the "Thrilla in Manila," the Folk Arts Theater and the Miss Universe pageant.

"She came out with strong conclusions that social expenditures had a much stronger impact on the economy than the same volume of expenditure on tourism," noted Dr. Sicat.

These findings were published in a 1987 issue of the Philippine Review of Economics and Business.

Presidential Priorities

The findings are consistent with the priorities of President Macapagal.

First, she is trying to slash the budget deficit so as not to crowd out the private sector. That is, the government will try to improve its tax collection radically. That will give it the funding needed for its projects. There will be no need to borrow heavily and thus end up raising interest rates.

Second, she is prioritizing social spending. Neda speaks of social safety nets and targeted poverty alleviation programs.

Better tax collection

The government's revenues last year amounted to P505.7 billion while disbursements were P641.8 billion. This led to a deficit of P136.1 billion.

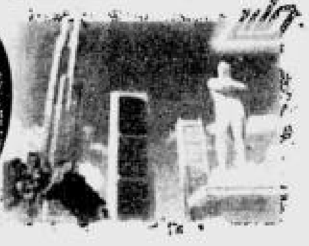
The Macapagal administration is thus trying to reform its tax administration. It is fast-tracking the computerization of its procedures and databases, tightening the process for granting tax exemptions for importing certain goods and embarking on the electronic metering of documentary stamps.

It is also strengthening the audit system and reorganizing the jurisdiction of the Court of Tax Appeals.

Then the government is getting more serious with this project called the Large Taxpayers Program.

Here's food for thought from another technocrat, Romeo Bernardo. One option is to let private lawyers go after tax evaders. The lawyers will get a percentage of the added tax revenue they pull in.

WHAT/ C4



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CEO . . .

(From page C1)

For BMW to really succeed in the Philippine market, the local employees have to see that they need to first develop themselves.

He also mentioned that one of BMW's philosophies is to work in a market and help develop it, rather than wait until a market is there and grab a share.

But Gilbert is by no means scared of competition. Being a sportsman, he knows how it is to be in a competitive arena.

"Being in sports has helped me understand the competitive nature of business. Both have the same end-results: winning and losing. Obviously, one wants to be in the winners' circle, but if one doesn't make it, you don't see a sportsman cry or get upset. It's all about trying to learn from what you've done and become better the next time around," he explains.

Sports also taught him to be more dynamic. This helps him manage the BMW Philippines group because "BMW is a dynamic brand."

He instills this value in his people, too. He makes it a point to remind them that BMW is not a slow and lazy brand.

"We try to create a very dynamic environment where people can freely express their ideas," he says.

Gilbert knows firsthand the value of dynamism. When he was still in school, he was never idle. He had to work extra hard because he was worked and studied at the same time.

"My parents couldn't afford to put me through university so Shell Oil paid for my schooling," he says.

He did get his commerce degree, but he did not take the test to be a certified public accountant because he felt that number crunching was not for him.

"I decided early on that I was born to sell tangible things," he says.

And sell he does. After years of successful stints in New Zealand and millions of dollars in revenues, Gilbert is expected to take the Philippine luxury car market by storm.

"But it's basically all about the people I work with. I'm not going to put my hands up and say, 'I'm BMW Philippines' because we're a team," he stresses.

Hands-on exec goes for virtual management

By Margie Quimpo-Espino

THE LADY, whose life was threatened because of a political campaign ad she made barely two months ago, is now set to try a management scheme that may be a first in the country.

Yoly Villanueva-Ong, chair of Campaigns and Grey and Campaigns Advocacy and PR Inc., makers of the controversial "Iboboto nyo pa ba sila?" anti-Enrile, Honasan, Lacson and Santiago ad campaign during the last senatorial election, will be performing virtual management starting next month.

She will be running her ad agency and PR and advocacy outfit from the Harvard University campus in the United States.

Ong is leaving for a one-year fellowship under the Edward Mason program at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government, where she will be taking up a mid-career masteral degree in Public Administration (MPA). This is the same program newly elected Sen. Francis Pangilinan attended a few years ago.

No, the move is not a way of getting away from the heat she faced during the campaign where Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile (who lost during the elections) gave out subtle threats against her and her agency.

Harvard wanted to give Ong the fellowship as early as 1999 but she could not take it at that time. Earlier this year she decided to avail of it. Ong, who is the major stockholder of the two outfits, has been a hands-on executive since she put up the ad agency over 10 years ago.

"I am very hands-on until today. When I leave I will try the process of virtual management," she says.

This means weekly video conferences (every Friday) with her management team and 24-hour e-mail communication.

Signing of checks will be turned over to the partners.

But she will still be involved in every major decision and will be practically running the business while studying a two-year course crammed into one year.

Not too many can manage all that but Ong says she is used to "doing 20 things at the same time. In the folksy language, women can walk and chew gum at the same time," she guffaws.

Ong, a Journalism graduate from the University of the Philippines, and the first Filipino invited to be a judge in the Clio awards (the Oscars of the advertising world), says she is excited at the prospect of studying again.

"I am looking forward to it although separation anxiety has not yet hit me. I am so busy making everyone less anxious I don't have time to make me not worry about it. I would like to do this as scientifically as possible," she says.

Which is why she has already planned that her family will spend Christmas with her in Boston, as her study will not allow her to even take a Christmas break. Her husband owns the Burberry store in the Shangri-La mall and is the sole importer of La Coste shoes.

Colleagues and friends have also planned their trips so that they can visit her while she completes her studies.

"My guest room is booked solid until October," she exclaims.

Ong says it is not so much that she needs the degree but she wants to pursue advocacy communication, which is a new field.

"I would like some expertise in the area," she muses.

She defines advocacy as "hybrid and using advertising tools for a value, a behavior or a point of view that uses advertising but not commercial advertising."

She acknowledges that under any study program, two things may happen—"NYDAK which is nothing that you don't already know or not applicable." "Not applicable because the political scenario there is different and they have different tools and instruments from a communicator's point of view," she adds.

ONG

But she feels that the study will be able to introduce her to aspect of advocacy that she has not yet been exposed to. Ong already had exposure in advocacy via training in a top advocacy group based in Washington D.C.

Perhaps it is her success in the commercial areas of communication that is inspiring Ong to try the less lucrative but possible more important side of communication but she knows she has to keep doing commercial ads to remain in business.

Ong knows "there are few opportunities to make money in advocacy that is why I cannot remove commercial advertising—that is where the rent comes from."

Capri is Ong's own and is one of the first advocacy firms to be set up in the country.

Campaigns and Grey on the other hand has foreign investors represented by Grey Worldwide.

Ong explains that in many countries it is their respective governments that pursue advocacy campaigns. She acknowledges that the Philippine government does not have too many funds but adds that the private sector is slowly realizing the value of such campaigns.

"There are more and more enlightened companies that are willing to put a fund for advocacy. If only there is a way to centralize the funding so we can have far more mass media communication component," she explains.

She says there are actually a lot of media groups that are civic-oriented and provide discounts for advocacy campaigns.

After her studies, Ong will be able to put herself a step ahead in a very young area in the Philippines. Of course, it is an area not too many are likely to pursue.

But it is still consistent with Ong's personality, which she says she discovered as untypical only after 40 years.

She says her thinking is totally different from that of most women.

Her childhood days were spent staying on top of a guava tree, munching the fruit and just looking at the people below.

After going through the Nancy Drew and Hardy Boys stage, she went right to Ayn Rand. "I never went through the romance—Mills and Boon stage nor Kahlil Gibran."

She graduated college in 1971 and during her student years would join protest movements but always by herself.

Now she will immerse herself in a field that few find attractive but excites and inspires her. But then friends and colleagues are no longer surprised with Ong.

When asked how her life changed after the ad campaign debacle she says not much.

The only thing she did was stop texting and using the phone while in the car and remained alert.

"I would receive text messages but did not know which were real and which were crank. Besides I felt I was too low in the totem pole to be wasted an assassin on."

What . . .

(From page C3)

What about government spending? According to Neda Director General Dante Canlas, the government is now on austerity. There will be no new hires except for key posts. Locally funded projects will have to be deferred for now. Low-priority programs will be purged.

However, the administration will protect its high priority projects on poverty reduction and frontline public services. It will preserve critical infrastructure projects. Canlas also reported that the government would strengthen accountability mechanisms.

Bernardo adds that on the medium and long term, the government should lead the private sector take over some of its major infrastructure projects.

Power generation is one case, and this reform has been passed into law. Housing is another. This can also be done for ports, airports and roads.

GSIS head quits Equitable

(From page C1)

speak up whenever needed to improve the operations of the controversial bank.

"If I'm not a board member, I'll be able to make a more objective assessment of the bank's operations and help lessen anomalous transactions," Garcia says in an interview with Business Monday.

Garcia said the resignation did not mean that GSIS would take the backseat in the affairs of the country's third biggest bank where the pension fund still held a 12-percent stake.

"I'll still be vigilant in monitoring our investments," he says.

Garcia and his right hand man, GSIS executive vice president Roberto Malonzo, resigned as directors of the board effective last June 19. Appointed to represent the GSIS' two board seats in their place, however, were GSIS SVPs Aurora Mathay and Enriqueta Disuanco.

"I want to devote more time to attend to the affairs of GSIS members. A lot of things have to be done and I'd like to concentrate more on our own problems than the problems of others," he says.

Garcia, a lawyer by profession, says the resignation would give him more leeway in protecting GSIS' investments in Equitable PCI Bank.

"This way, I can be more spontaneous and not answerable to anyone except my members when I open up my mouth," Garcia says.

Garcia notes that a bank director was bound by a lot of restrictions and circulars.

A few weeks after the Equitable PCI Bank stockholders' meeting, for instance, the Monetary Board of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas issued a new circular defining the responsibilities of a bank director.

Some of the provisions of the circular, according to banking analysts, were triggered by the incident at the Equitable PCI stockholders' meeting, where regulators felt that some information were prematurely disclosed to the public.

Pursuant to Monetary Board Resolution No. 713 dated May 10, 2001, added to the bank's Manual of Regulations was a new circular prescribing the powers and authority of the board of directors.

Among the duties stated was to observe confidentiality. "Directors must observe the confidentiality of non-public information acquired by reason of their position as directors. They may not disclose said information to any other person without the authority of the board," the circular says.

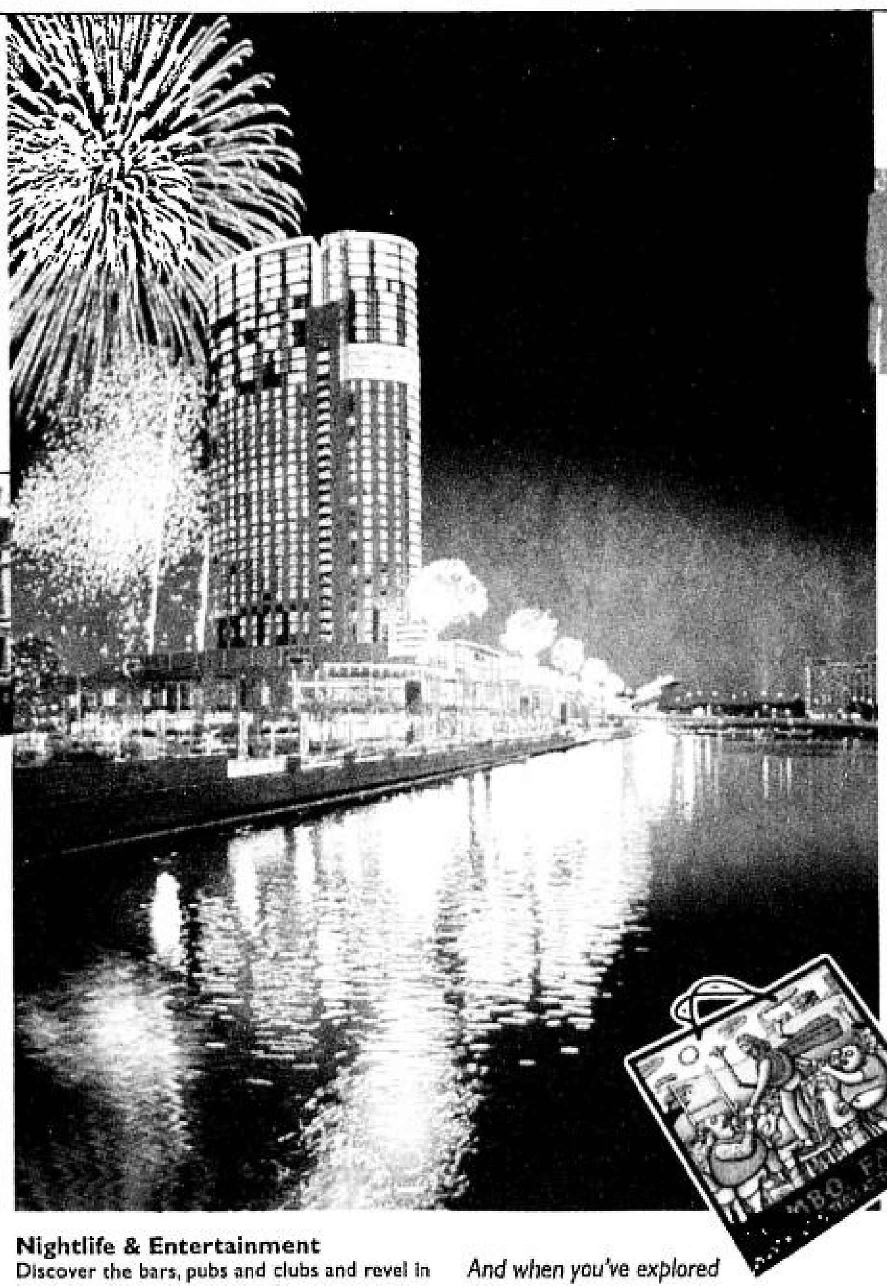
For his part, Garcia assures that he will still speak up on the affairs of the bank even if he is no longer a director, if he believes it will be in the best interest of the bank.

In the latest board meeting, newly installed Equitable PCI Bank president Deogracias Vistan was also appointed as a new director.

Vistan says in a separate interview that GSIS' move to replace its representatives to the board was "a decision made among themselves."

Equitable PCI is moving to professionalize the management of the bank. The appointment of Vistan, a former president of the influential Bankers Association of the Philippines, for instance, brought positive signals to the market.

Melbourne
A Charming City

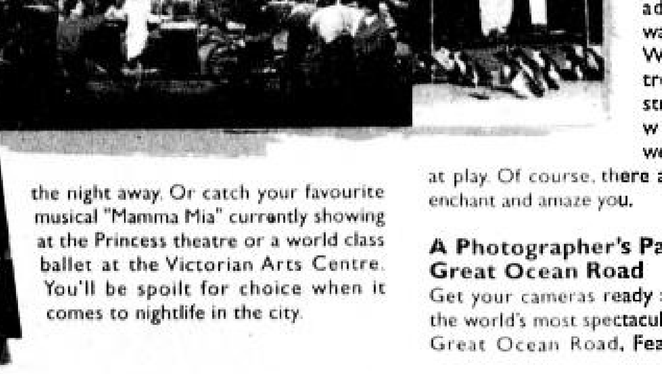


When you visit Melbourne, you'll discover more than just a charming city. Amidst the shady boulevards, quaint trams and Victorian architecture, lies a city of contrasts. Melbourne has it all – classy city sights, gourmet delights, vibrant arts scene and a dazzling nightlife.

Shopping in Style
From chic, trendy designer outlets on Chapel Street to elegant shopping arcades in the city and factory outlets in Bridge Road, you will find that there is a place to suit every taste and budget. Don't miss out on our colourful weekend markets for excellent bargains.

Feast of Flavours
Melbourne offers you the world on a plate. Choose from a rich multinational spread from Chinese, Greek, Italian, French, South East Asian, Vietnamese and Middle Eastern ethnic groups. From world-class, 5-star dining to bustling fashionable bistros to casual and relaxed alfresco cafes, the city covers all tastes and budgets.

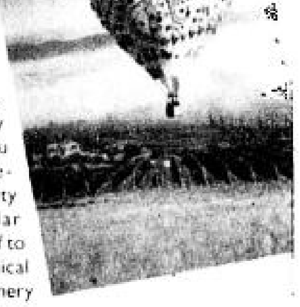
Nightlife & Entertainment
Discover the bars, pubs and clubs and revel in Melbourne's exotic nightlife where you can rage until the early hours. Live it up at Crown Entertainment Complex. With its many restaurants, brasseries and exciting nightclubs, you may just find yourself eating and dancing the night away. Or catch your favourite musical "Mamma Mia" currently showing at the Princess theatre or a world class ballet at the Victorian Arts Centre. You'll be spoilt for choice when it comes to nightlife in the city.



And when you've explored the city, choose from a kaleidoscope of cosy country escapes, which lies only a few hours outside of Melbourne...

A Natural Playground – Phillip Island
Only two hours from the city lies a natural playground teeming with wildlife and brimming with adventure activities waiting to be explored. Walk amongst the treetops with Koalas, stroll through tranquil world-renowned wetlands or watch seals at play. Of course, there are also penguins to enchant and amaze you.

A Photographer's Paradise – Great Ocean Road
Get your cameras ready and head for one of the world's most spectacular coastal road - The Great Ocean Road. Feast your eyes on a gorgeous stretch of surfing beaches, cosy resort towns and quaint fishing hamlets. The journey takes you past farmlands, picturesque Otways Rainforest and during May to August, you may even catch a glimpse of the Southern Right Whales and their playful calves. Not to be missed are the awesome rock formations of The Twelve Apostles, London Bridge and The Bay of Martyrs.



A Romantic Retreat - Yarra Valley
Victoria's famous wine-growing region lies only an hour from the city. You can meet the wine-makers, sample a variety of wines at the cellar doors and treat yourself to a world of gastronomical delights at any of the winery restaurants. For a little adventure, try a hot-air ballooning experience at the break of dawn. A short distance away are the beautiful Rhododendron Gardens and quaint arts and crafts villages in the Dandenongs. And when dush falls, choose to unwind and relax in any of the cosy country retreats.

So, whatever you have in mind; be it a quiet getaway or an exciting adventure, you can be sure of one thing, a holiday that will rejuvenate your entire well-being.

For more information on Melbourne, Victoria, log on to website *visitmelbourne.com*

Get 1 incredible deal to 2 incredible cities: Now you can choose to fly to Melbourne and one other city in Australia* for only US$799, including 3 nights hotel accommodation per city, breakfast and airport transfer. For inquiries and reservations, contact Qantas Airways at 812-3734 or your travel agents.

*conditions apply

Australia
See you there
www.australia.com

AUSTRALIA
visitmelbourne.com

QANTAS
THE SPIRIT OF AUSTRALIA
www.qantas.com.au

get THE Best Deals with Citibank Credit Cards

Ah, the joys of being rewarded

Forget the peso-dollar exchange rate. From now on, the banner headline running across our minds should read, 'Citibank Rewards exchange rate: P30=1 point'

ASK any of the nearly 700,000 or so Citibank credit cardmembers in the country why using their card is such a wonderful habit. For the Shell-Citibank Classic and Gold MasterCard cardmembers, it's the best deals and great conveniences the partnership between the leaders in fuel retailing and credit card industries brings, plus the unbelievable fuel rebates. For the Citibank-Cathay Pacific Card members, it's the same level of benefits and conveniences an unbeatable partnership brings—this time with one of the most reputable airlines in the world. Plus, it has its own loyalty program, which is based on air miles.

And then, there are the Citibank Visa and MasterCard cardmembers. You guessed it right. They get the best deals on their purchases using their Citibank credit cards, the most convenient card processing that exists, and a mouth-watering rewards catalog.

Now guess what the common thread is among all these Citibank credit cards. Time's up. Yes, of course, they're all Citibank credit cards. The clincher here is that aside from giving members all the conveniences and best deals of using the best credit card in the Philippines, Citibank gives back something by way of a loyalty program, or a rewards scheme.

Jay Bengzon, Citibank, N.A.'s program manager of Cards Category Marketing, says it clear: "The reason for the rewards program is that we want to reward our cardholders for using their cards. We want to give value to their spending."

If you ask Jay what he thinks Citibank credit cardmembers appreciate most about their cards, he'll answer, "One is the service. Two is the variety of items. Three is their getting value for money."

(If you wish to read it straight from the cardmembers themselves, read the testimonials on this page.)

We'll admit it right now. This article won't make you feel how wonderful it is to own a credit card. This piece of writing won't free you from the hassles (and dangers) of pulling out thick wads of bills right out of your pockets. This article won't even make you compare how so much better it is to own a Citibank credit card from any other plastic out there. Being convinced is all about having the credit card in your hand, and having to actually use it for purchases anywhere you are, and getting rewarded for it.

What these pages will do is give you a taste of what it's like to use what is undoubtedly one of the most popular credit cards in the market today. Just like a movie trailer, we'll whet your appetites and make you want to have the real thing. Hey,

AH, THE JOYS/ C8

Testimonials

"Very fast delivery service. *Na co*-compensate *ang* P1,200 annual fee *na binabayaran ko sa ni-re*redeem *kong* items"
– Victoria Sta. Maria

"The Citibank Rewards Program enhances the usage of my card. I earn something whenever I purchase something."
– Ireneo Panganiban

"I enjoy using my Citibank credit card because of the company's good service."
– Cecilia de Ramon Fernandez

"I enjoy redeeming Citibank Rewards items because of the variety of the merchandise. It also has nice stuff for kids."
– Anna A. Kho

"It's affordable! The required number of points of a specific item is reasonable and they have a fast delivery service."
– Fe M. Cruz

"Speedy delivery! I didn't expect my redeemed items to be delivered the next day!"
– Alfredo C. Cabrera

"Natutuwa ako sa Rewards Program *ng* Citibank. *Ang bilis pa nilang mag*-deliver!"
– Gregory S. Sabile

"They deliver on time."
– Jovita Lee Granada

A member of citigroup

It's not just a Credit Card

CITIBANK
5423 1234 5618
01/01 01/03
ALEX R. SANTOS
FOUNDER MEMBER
MasterCard
3 months
6 months
9 months
12 months
18 months
24 months

It's celebrating the most memorable events at your favorite party places.

Now, more merchants are accepting PAYLITE! You can start enjoying the convenience of PayLite's longer, lighter installment terms for your party needs -- be it your child's birthday, your sister's debut or your parent's golden anniversary! Visit these establishments today!

Only from Citibank. Where Money Lives.

PayLite INSTALLMENT PLAN

The longer, the lighter!

For more details, please call 24-Hour CitiPhone at 995-9999 in Metro Manila, 234-9999 in Metro Cebu, or 1-800-1-888-9333 from other provinces.

And to kick-off the party, we've arranged special freebies and discounts for you until December 31, 2001

CEBU CITY Marriott HOTEL
15% discount on food & beverage rates applicable in Garden Café, Palm Lounge & through room service
10% discount on private functions, birthdays, anniversaries and weddings

Cebu Midtown Hotel
Free overnight stay for two (2) persons for food & beverage bill worth P18,000 per function

CEBU PLAZA HOTEL
For a minimum of 4 persons availing buffet lunch or dinner, 1 person gets free buffet meal
Complimentary cake for birthdays, weddings and baptisms
Complimentary wine for shower & stag parties

CENTURY IMPERIAL PALACE SUITES QUEZON CITY
5% discount on banquet rates*
* Prior reservation required
35% discount on published room rates with free breakfast

DISCOVERY Suites
5% discount on banquet rates

Dusit Hotel Nikko
5% discount on all banquet rates for a minimum charge of P50,000*

HOTEL REMBRANDT
5% discount for weddings, seminars, debut & other social functions

JADE GARDEN
Free P500 gift certificate

Kids Wurk
For packages A, B and C, free entrance for 5 additional kids
Corkage fee waived for 1 dish

KIMPURA
Free P500 gift certificate

Luyung
5% discount on food bill only

La Primavera RISTORANTE ITALIANO
10% discount on total food & beverage bill

MANDARIN ORIENTAL MANILA
5% discount on banquet rates
Corkage fee waived for 5 bottles of wine
70% discount on room accomodation if booking is paid in full 45 days before the event*

MANILA DIAMOND HOTEL
5% discount on banquet rates and 1 gift certificate for an overnight stay in an Executive Suite if you choose to avail of our Social Function Package*

MANILA GALLERIA SUITES
Automatic upgrade to Studio Suite for banquet function with a complimentary gift certificate for Deluxe Room

Marco Polo SEAFOOD GARDEN
5% discount on all food items only

MARBACO BLUEWATER BEACH RESORT
Room for only $90 with breakfast
1-hour use kayak
Free massage for 15 mins.

PEKING GARDEN
Free P500 gift certificate

Shangri-La's Mactan Island Resort CEBU, PHILIPPINES
Complimentary 1 bottle of wine*
Complimentary gift certificate for two (2) persons for a buffet at the Garden Patio*

TAMBULI
20% discount on published room rates
10% discount on food & alcoholic drinks

THE HERITAGE
5% discount on food & beverage bill for functions worth P100,000 to P199,999
10% discount on food & beverage bill for functions worth P200,000 and above

Little gym
10% discount for all birthday packages and programs*

WATERFRONT CEBU CITY HOTEL
5% discount on food & beverage bill at a minimum P400/head
10% discount on room rental
1 free overnight stay for a minimum banquet bill of P30,000

THE WESTIN PHILIPPINE PLAZA MANILA
5% discount on banquet or catering services*

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0183, Series of 2001

CITIBANK

A LIFE RICHLY REWARDING

A life richly rewarding

BON VOYAGE

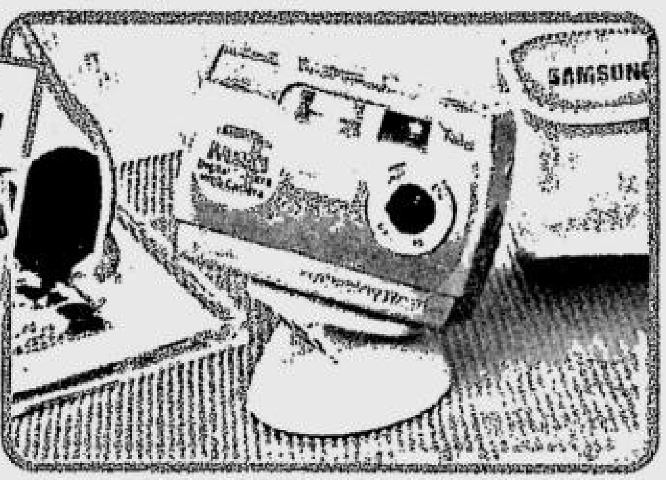
Travel and Vacation Living

FREQUENT FLYER PROGRAM

NORTHWEST KLM
WORLDPERKS MILEAGE PROGRAM

ROYAL
ORCHID
Plus

Asia Miles



SAMSUNG DIGITAL CAMERA

ON THE RUN

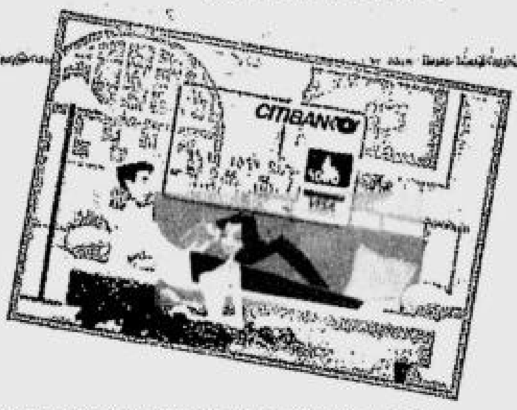
Traveling Bags

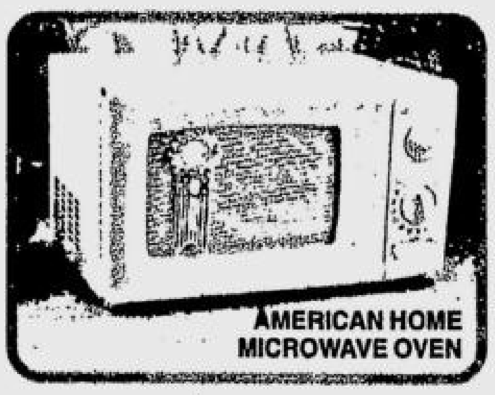
TRAVEL CASE WITH TROLLEY

MINI LUGGAGE BAG

DOMESTIC BLISS

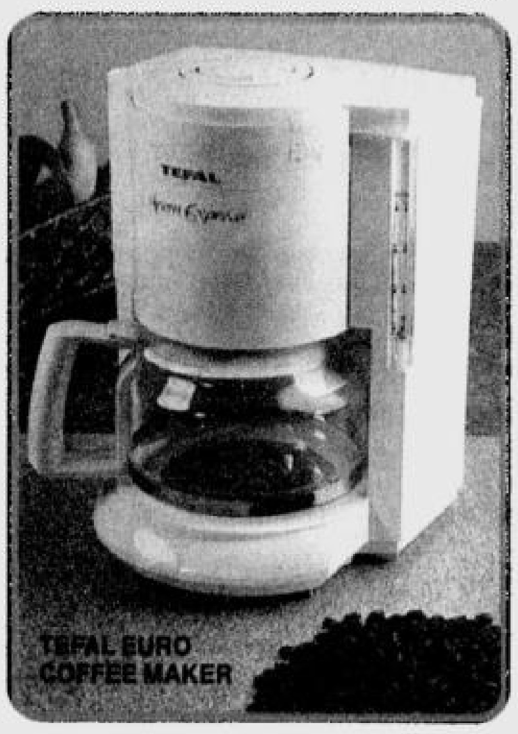
Home and Kitchen





AMERICAN HOME MICROWAVE OVEN

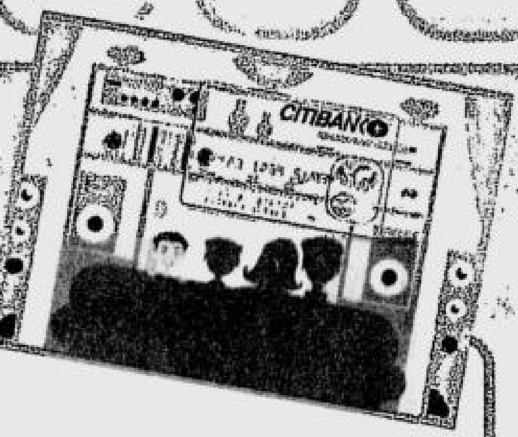
CAMEL RICE COOKER

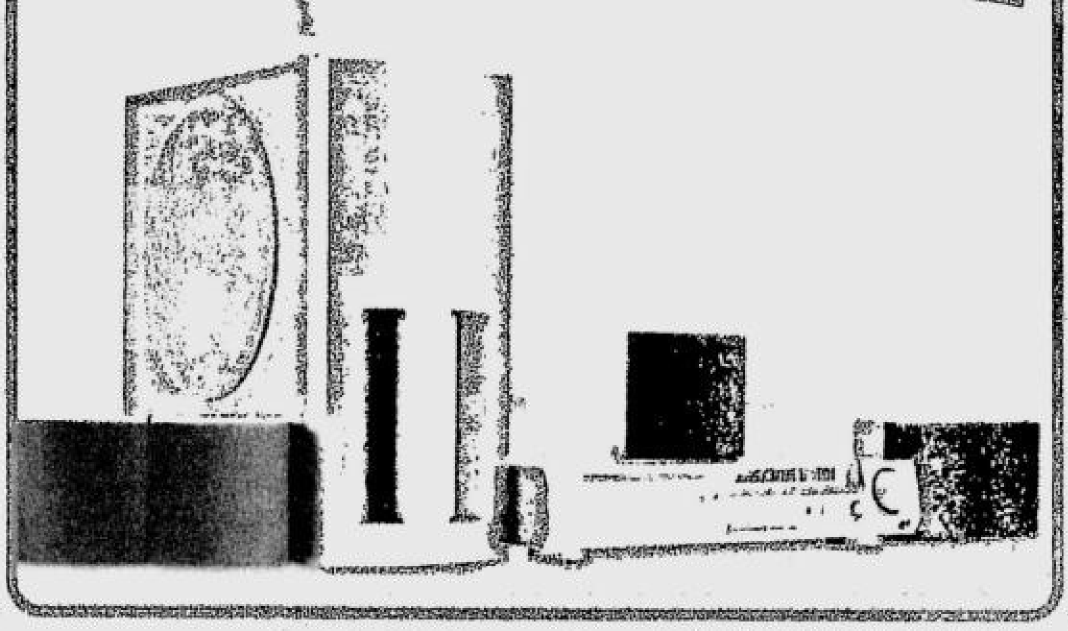


TEFAL EURO COFFEE MAKER

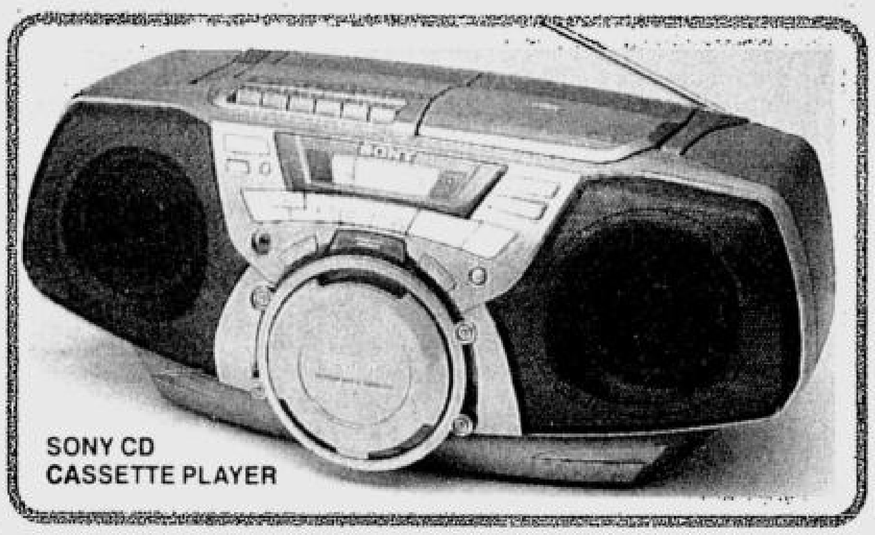
TOTALLY WIRED

Home Appliances
and Entertainment Devices





SONY HI-FI STEREO SYSTEM



SONY CD CASSETTE PLAYER

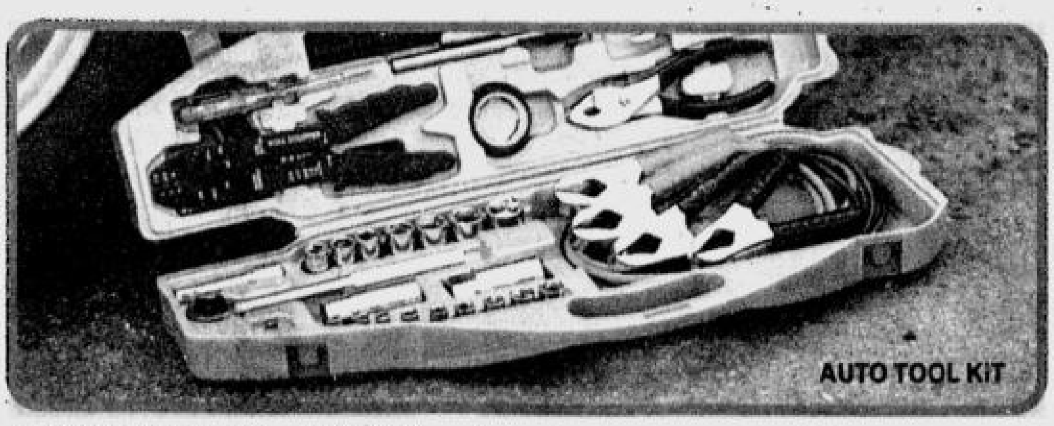
SONY WALKMAN

SONY DISCMAN

HANDYMAN

Household Tools and Gadgets

B&D DUAL SPEED HAMMER DRILL 10MM



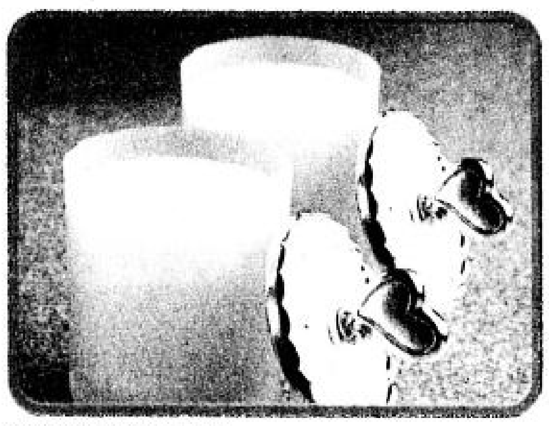
AUTO TOOL KIT

So keep on using your Citibank Credit Card to rack up these Rewards poin

Presenting a glimpse of the Citibank Rewards Catalog 2001-2002

STRICTLY PERSONAL

Personal Effects



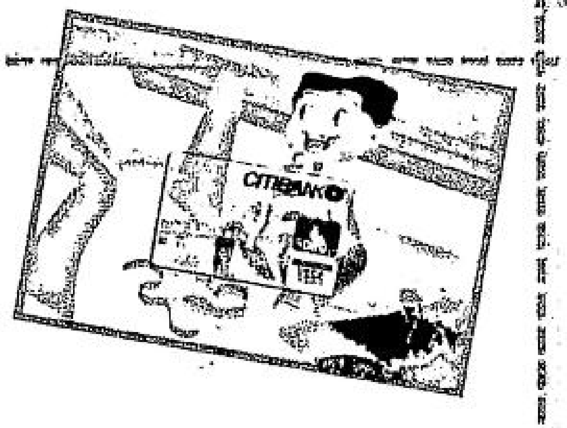
CANDLE HOLDER
WITH HEART SHAPE HANDLE

IGEDO FASHIONS P5,000 GIFT CERTIFICATE

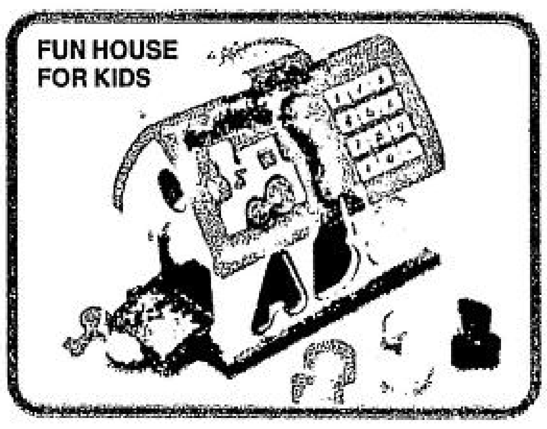
CRABTREE & EVELYN L'ATTITUDE SET

KIDSTUFF

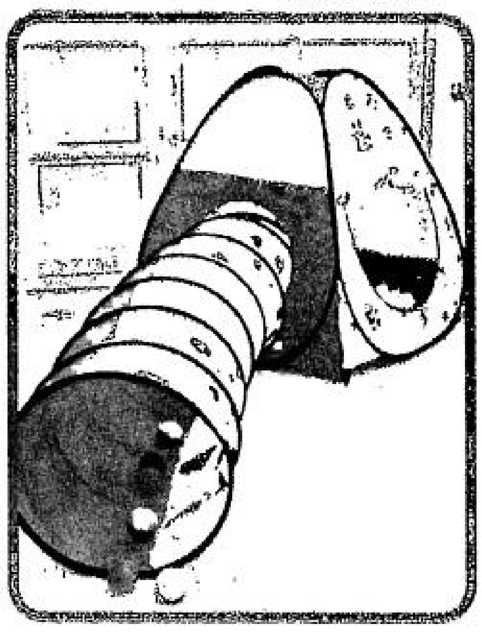
Toys and Accessories



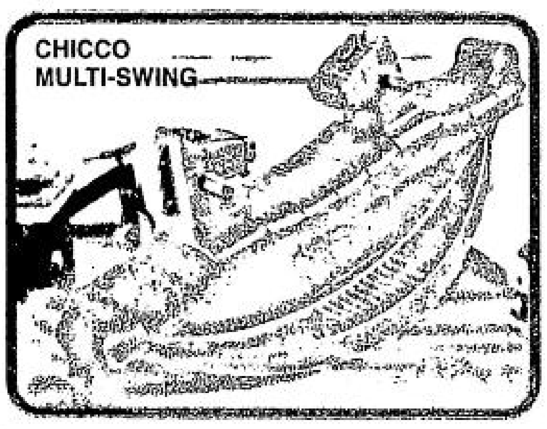
FUN HOUSE
FOR KIDS



MAGIC BALL HOUSE
AND TUNNEL



CHICCO
MULTI-SWING



DINING DELIGHTS

Food Treats for two or more

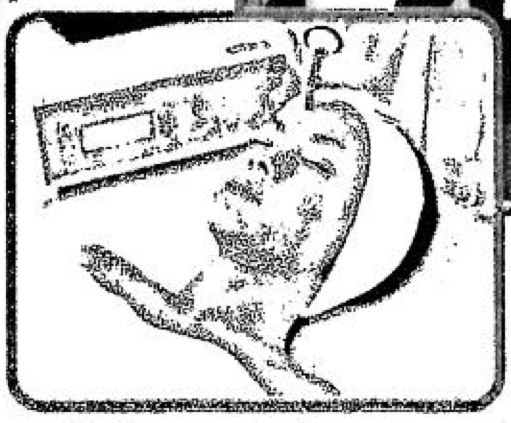
ITALIANNI'S RESTAURANT
P1,500 GIFT CERTIFICATE

T.G.I.FRIDAY'S P1,500
GIFT CERTIFICATE

PERSONAL PLEASURES

Relaxation and Enrichment

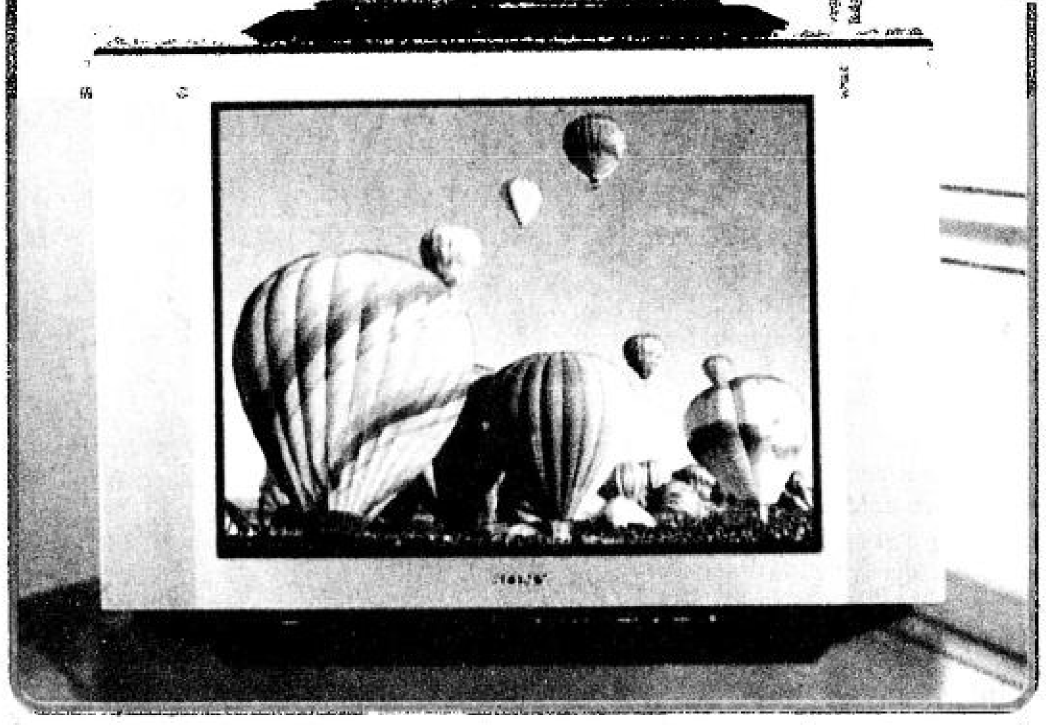
POWER
DANCE
ANNUAL
MEMBERSHIP
FEE



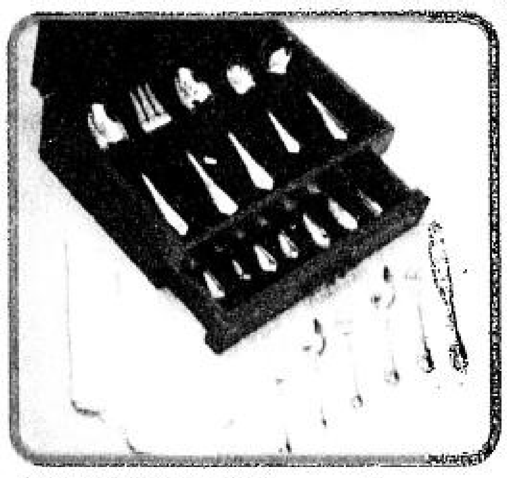
FACIAL CARE CENTRE
GIFT CERTIFICATE-SKIN
TONE RE-ENERGIZER (1 visit)

EXCLUSIVES

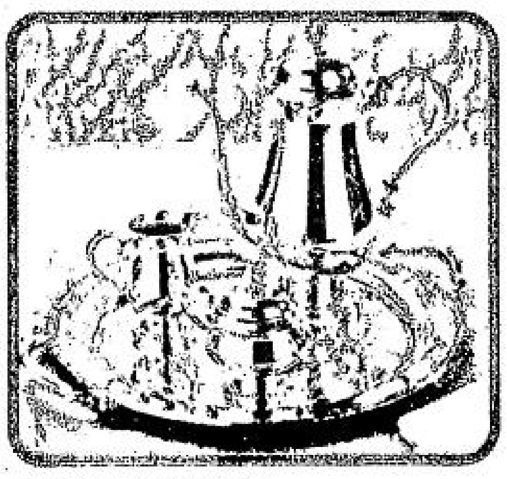
Especially for Gold Cardholders



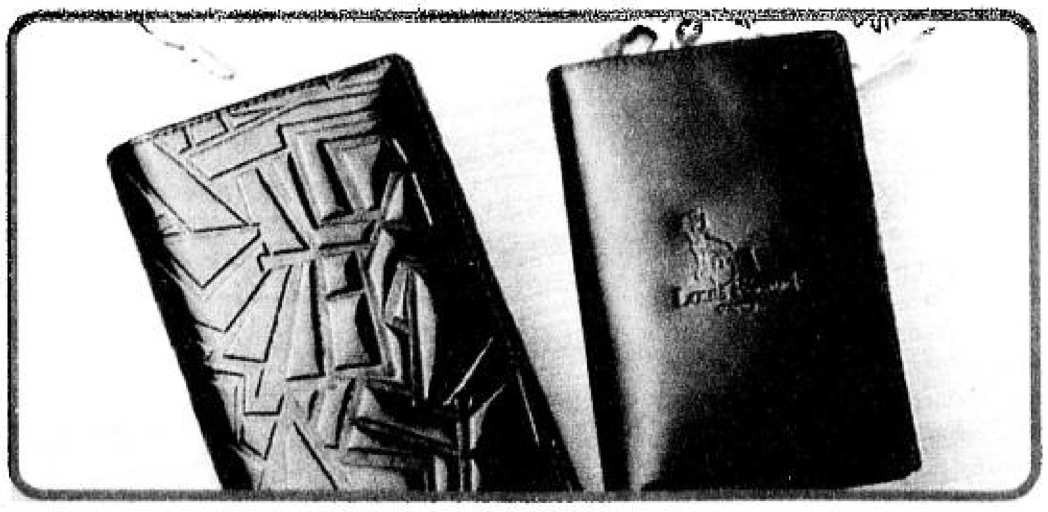
SONY WEGA 29" COLOR TV



ONEIDA KING JAMES
66-PIECE SILVERWARE SET



ONEIDA JEFFERSON
4-PIECE COFFEE SET



LOUIS FERAUD WALLETS

ts you can use to redeem gifts, annual fee waivers, and frequent flyer miles.

get THE Best Deals with Citibank Credit Cards

CITIBANK
CITIBANK
CITIBANK
VISA

Ah, the joys of being rewarded

(From page C5)

700,000 satisfied cardmembers couldn't be wrong, could they?

Worldwide acceptance

Being able to fully appreciate "cashless purchases" is being able to use credit cards wherever money is used. That is the power of the Citibank credit card. Worldwide, over 14 million establishments accept Citibank credit cards. The drive for innovation and superior customer service have been the pillars that supported the Citibank credit card resulting in unique and relevant offers that maximize the cardmember's desire for the best value for money.

There are no limits for Citibank in its efforts to make its credit cards an integral part of our daily lives. Nowhere is this most evident than in its most recent Citibank Rewards Catalog for 2001-2002. The fresh and modern-looking Citibank Rewards Catalog presents 131 top-of-the-line items and four frequent flyer programs. These items attract all age brackets and all tastes; cutting across varying lifestyles.

"We want to offer something for everybody," Jay stresses. "We feel we have a good mix."

There is a good mix just by looking at the catalog. The well-organized booklet is divided into easy-to-find, easy-to-read sections that offer not only items but "experiential packages" as well, such as powerdance lessons and gift certificates to fine restaurants. *(See inside pages for a sampling of the catalog)*

"This catalog offers rewards that enhance your lifestyle. It isn't anymore just about having a cool item. It's about having items that are relevant to your lifestyle," Jay explains.

Evolution

The 2001-2002 Citibank Rewards Main Catalog is actually the third release of the Citibank rewards catalog. The first in 1996 was one of the first rewards programs from any credit card company in the country. The second, in 1998, also marked the beginning of the seasonal catalog offerings—the Summer, Back-to-School, Home and Appliance and Christmas catalogs.

"There has always been something new to look forward to in the evolution of our catalogs," Jay recalls. *(See illustrated history of Citibank Rewards Catalogs)*

Accumulate points, Citibank delivers

For this latest edition, Citibank adds the convenience of technology to make redeeming rewards easier. All cardmembers have to do is to just keep on spending using their Citibank credit cards. All they have to remember is P30 is equal to 1 rewards point.

The rewards points, according to Jay, just keep on accumulating and do not expire. Once their accumulated points reach the required amount for a desired rewards item, all the cardmember has to do is either fill out the redemption form and mail it back. Or he or she can just simply call the 24-hour CitiPhone.

Cardmembers don't even have to wait for their accumulated points to reach the required point equivalent of a much-desired item. The Fast Track option lets cardholders acquire the rewards item for less points. All they need to do is add cash as indicated in every item in the catalog.

And would you think Citibank would let you choose things so easy, just to make it hard for you to get them? Citibank Rewards items are delivered right to the doorstep of cardmembers for free. Not just in Metro Manila. Not just in Metro Cebu, but anywhere in the Philippines.

If you plan to consolidate your other credit card balances into your Citibank credit card, you will also earn rewards points, 1 point for every P30 of balance transferred. Managing all credit card balances under one account offers cardmembers the convenience and ease of tracking purchases and paying their outstanding amount. It will be wise for one to choose to consolidate using the credit card that offers the best rewards program. As a special bonus, every P7,000 transferred earns 1,500 bonus points.

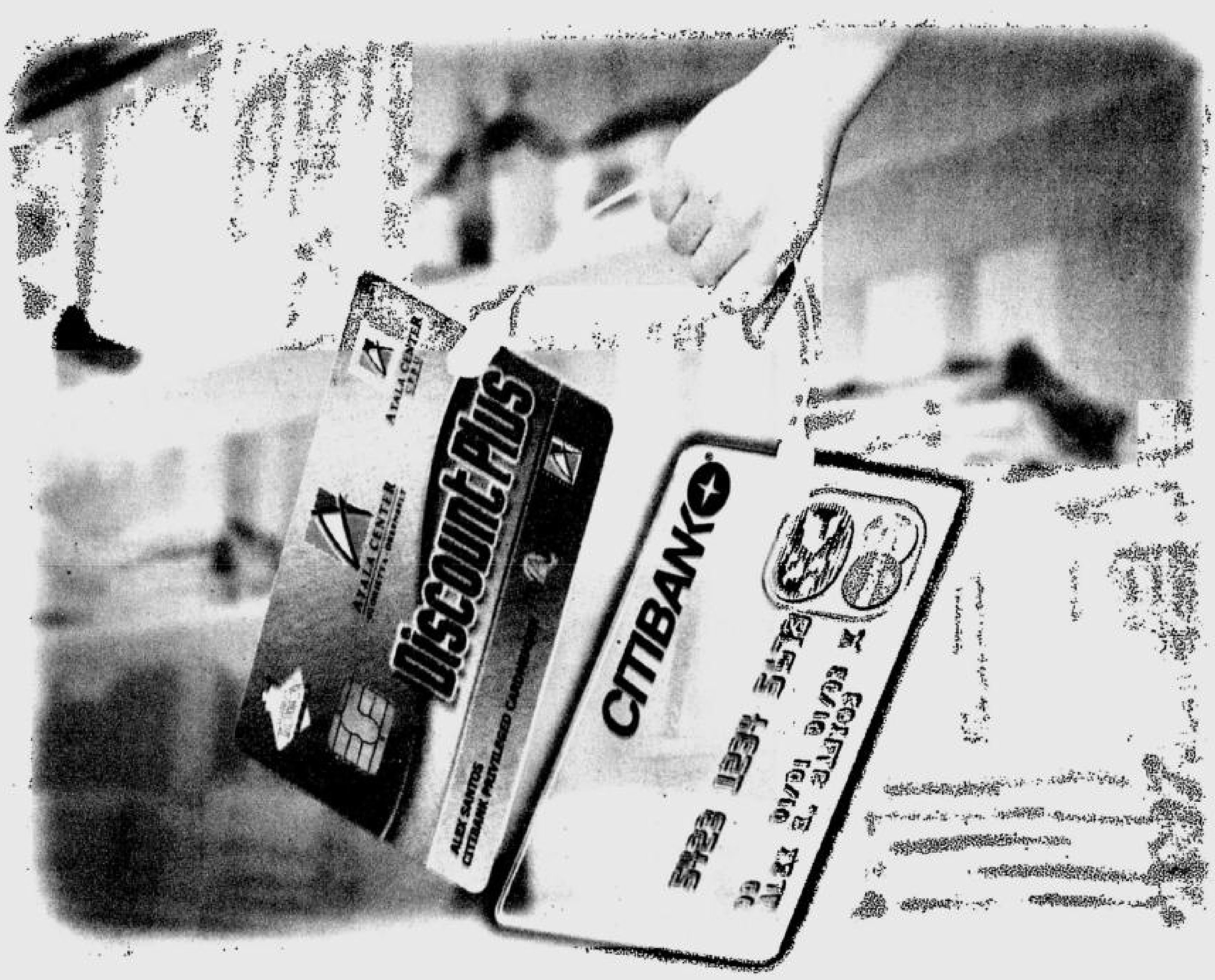
There's even a special rewards feature that lets cardmembers exchange rewards points for fee waivers on their Citibank credit cards.

It's all in the Citibank Rewards Catalog 2001-2002 edition.

The 2001-2002 Citibank Rewards Main Catalog is actually the third release of the Citibank rewards catalog. The first in 1996 was one of the first rewards programs from any credit card company in the country. The second, in 1998, also marked the beginning of the seasonal catalog offerings—the Summer, Back-to-School, Home and Appliance and Christmas catalogs

A member of citigroup

It's not just a Credit Card



It's having the hottest new pair in shopping.

Shop like never before. Just apply for a Citibank Credit Card* and upon approval, we'll give you a FREE Ayala Malls Discount Plus Card. Get them and enjoy the following perks:

- BIG DISCOUNTS from hundreds of stores
- FREE parking**
- FREE access to customer lounges

That's more shopping convenience you won't find anywhere else! So apply now and make shopping doubly rewarding.

Promo runs from June 14 to September 14, 2001

CITIBANK
CITIBANK
Alex Santos
VISA

APPLY NOW!

Call 24-Hour CitiPhone at 995-9999 in Metro Manila, 234-9999 in Metro Cebu or 1-800-10-9959999 in other provinces.

* For Citibank Silver and Gold Primary Cards only.

** Cardholders claiming from Alabang Town Center will get 2 movie passes instead of free parking privileges.

AYALA CENTER GLORIETTA · GREENBELT

ALABANG TOWN CENTER

AYALA CENTER CEBU

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0635, Series of 2001

CITIBANK

Filipino executives can easily adopt to diverse cultures

IN terms of global management, Filipino executives are among the most competitive compared with other nationalities.

Dr. Glendon Rowell, president of Boyden Global Executive Search, made this observation speaking before members of the Rotary Club of Makati Guadalupe.

Rowell revealed that Filipino executives are well liked globally, enabling them to be relocated anywhere in the world and easily adapt to diverse cultures. He noted that in terms of preparation for global responsibilities, the Filipino executive's advantage is substantial.

One distinct advantage of Filipinos, Rowell underscored, is that they are exposed to various global influences in terms of "interests, nationalities, cultural strains and ethnic vibrations."

Rowell noted that multinational corporations look for people whose minds are capable of multicultural thinking. The presence of almost every nationality and several multinational corporations in the country makes most Filipinos familiar with global trends and ways of thinking. This makes Filipinos most adaptable to other cultures. "Being bilingual comes naturally to Filipinos," Rowell said.

"Being bicultural is a fundamental requisite to being a global executive," he stressed.

Filipinos, he added, have "the natural facility to shift from one language to another, or from one set of cultural values to another."

Furthermore, with the number of excellent schools in the country, several Filipinos have very good educational bases to emerge as top global executives. Rowell noted that "Even some of the less well-known schools are still good schools."

Some of the benefits the Filipino enjoys to prepare him or her for global responsibilities are the presence of outstanding profession and his or her exposure to advanced technology, especially in the area of communications.

Multinationals and other top professional firms like SGV, Ernst and Young; Procter and Gamble and Unilever, among others, serve as excellent training grounds for Filipinos aspiring to become world-class executives.

"All the building blocks and all the ingredients are here in the country," Rowell said.

Boyden opened its Manila office in 1997 due to a high and steadily increasing demand for senior executives for companies in the Philippines.

Use principles of art . . .

(From page C10)

give false promises or false praises. He deals openly, honestly and selflessly. He follows a strict code of ethics and espouses high moral standards.

10. Universality

Great art appeals to a great number. It appeals to the sensitivities and the sensibilities of all humanity through all time. It knows no limits because it transcends the here and now.

The consummate photographer knows the psyche of both his subject and his viewers. He can capture the subject in such a manner that viewers can glean various meanings.

The great leader accomplishes great feats because his noble cause attracts many followers. He can feel the pulse of his organization. He can translate their aspirations into a grand vision. The great leader is the embodiment of his people. He personifies all that is good, true and wonderful.

Too early to write obituary for WAP–telecom experts

SINGAPORE—The much-hyped Wireless Application Protocol (WAP) system was supposed to bring the Internet to users via handheld devices, but it flopped miserably in the market.

Still, it is way too early to write the obituary for the technology in which billions of dollars have been spent developing the network infrastructure, industry experts said at the CommunicAsia 2001 trade fair.

Even Japanese giant NTT DoCoMo's phenomenally successfull i-mode service, which delivered where WAP has failed, is not going to set the global standard for wireless Internet applications, they said.

"I-mode is extremely successful in Japan but that does not mean i-mode will be successful elsewhere in the world," Andrew Coward, regional technical director for Internet infrastructure provider Unisphere Network, told AFP.

"It's not all over for WAP," said Coward.

WAP was widely panned after failing to live up to expectations when it was rolled out with much fanfare across Asia last year. Access was slow, content was sparse and WAP-equipped phones were hard to find.

Many new phone models are now WAP-ready, but consumers remain wary. Telecom operators and WAP developers say high-speed access and new applications can still save the medium.

"WAP is not dead. WAP as a protocol and as a gateway is not dead," said Georges Boulloy, Siemens AG vice president for product operations.

Since the failure of WAP, designed on the European-developed GSM platform, which is dominant in much of the world with the exception of the United States and Japan, the market has been waiting for an alternative.

But having invested so much to develop the technology, the Europeans would be reluctant to concede defeat to the Japanese in the race to lead the world in wireless technology, said a vice president for mobile communications from a major Asian technology group.

"i-mode could be one candidate and European operators praise i-mode but they don't want to follow it exactly the same way," he added.

"They want to have their own product because they know eventually this is not a handset business but an application business," added the executive, who asked not to be named.

"Eventually the application will be more important than the handset itself," he said.

When WAP stumbled, a more basic platform, the Short Message Service (SMS), captured the GSM market, thanks to ease of use. With SMS, users can swap messages and download basic information without using the Internet.

Siemens' Boulloy said WAP's resurrection could come from the way content will be delivered to users, adding that the process was now underway.

"What is dead is the WAP content. What is going to happen is the i-mode-like content . . . downloading radio tones, downloading screensavers . . . is going to happen on WAP protocol," he said.

"Most of (i-mode's) experience in terms of content can be brought over to Europe and the rest of Asia on existing WAP infrastructure," Boulloy said.

A new mobile Internet platform called M-services, recently proposed by a group of 450 GSM operators and equipment manufacturers, can run on the WAP infrastructure.

"It will be more easy to use and they will get much better access," Boulloy said.

Critics of WAP said the technology failed because it was far too complicated for the average user.

In contrast, i-mode owed much of its success to its easy-to-use functions.

"What i-mode delivered which WAP never did was flexibility," Coward said. *AFP*

Humble SMS emerges as darling of telecom industry

SINGAPORE—The humble, relatively low-tech short message service, or SMS, is being hailed as the darling of the telecommunications industry following the dramatic failure of its flashier cousin, WAP.

Initially shunned in favor of the more futuristic Wireless Application Protocol, which aimed to bring the Internet to the mobile phone's tiny screen, SMS has been sending cash registers ringing and even helped topple an Asian president in January.

Telecommunications experts at this week's CommunicAsia 2001 trade fair here said SMS, which allows people to send brief messages by just pressing a few buttons on their mobile phones, still has plenty of room to grow especially in Asia, which already accounts for a large part of world SMS usage.

Apart from allowing for instantaneous exchanging of messages, SMS can also be used to deliver information on demand such as news, sports results and weather information.

By the end of last year, 12 billion SMS messages were being sent monthly worldwide, said Jyrki Halttunen, vice president for mobile Internet applications with Nokia Networks Asia Pacific.

This is expected to increase to 200 billion SMS messages per month by the end of this year, he told a forum at CommunicAsia, the region's largest telecom trade fair.

One telecom operator in the Philippines, a global SMS leader, processed 114 million text messages just on February 14, Valentine's Day, he said.

In January, opponents of then President Joseph Estrada mobilized hundreds of thousands of Filipinos to the streets in part by sending SMS messages, forcing him to flee the presidential palace amid a swirling corruption scandal.

While the increased usage in Asia has been phenomenal, there is still room for growth because SMS messages are mainly using the English language, said Dinesh Singh Bhatia, chief executive of Singapore-based EdgeMatrix Pte. Ltd.

There is a huge untapped market using other languages with their own characters such as those of China, India and Thailand.

"I think SMS has barely begun to takeoff," Bhatia told AFP on the sides of the trade fair. "The growth rate has been phenomenal, but only with Roman characters.

"There's a lot more diversity in Asia. There is the Chinese language, the Indian language," he said, adding that the Japanese were more of a recipient of messages rather than senders because of the language barrier.

"So I think SMS has a long, long way to go. Voice is the killer application and I think the second killer application is going to be simple text-based messages," he said.

Nokia's Halttunen said the handset maker was developing SMS-friendly mobile phones targeting the Thai and Chinese markets.

SMS will hold its ground, even with the arrival of third generation (3G) mobile services, which offer faster and more complex connection options such as video conferencing, because it is simple and cheap, Bhatia said.

"We as human beings are going do what's economical to us. If we need to get a message across and it costs us just five cents . . . rather than calling in and seeing a video screen, I think we're going to choose the former," he said.

Hoong Ngee Khoon, director for Asia-Pacific of Internet global consultancy firm Cap Gemini Ernst and Young, said SMS will become more sophisticated as higher forms of technology allowing wider bandwidth are put into place.

"We are proposing SMS but more sophisticated. With messaging, we can attach pictures, documents and movies," he said in an interview.

"It will be the same form of SMS but you can do bigger things because you have bigger bandwidth. And because it is more secure, we can also do transactions with SMS.

"I believe SMS will stay, whether it's with GSM, 2.5G or 3G," he said.

GSM is the current technology in use in mobile phones and 2.5G is the transitional technology toward 3G.

He said 3G is just a platform and SMS is one of the services that could make use of that conduit.

"I can send colorful roses to my wife during Valentine's day or during her birthday, rather than just plain happy birthday," he said. *AFP*

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HONDA

Use principles of art in management

By Eduardo A. Morato Jr.

MY PERSONAL encounters with great works of art—paintings or photographs, sculptures or poems, music or drama—suggest that they adhere to 10 universal principles.

For this essay, I will apply the 10 universal principles to techniques in photography and make a quantum leap to how leaders and managers can apply these principles and techniques to their own spheres of interest.

1. Unity

In great art, there is unity in the message and the impact on the audience. The elements of the painting or musical piece combine and become one inspiring piece that lasts generations.

Photographs manifest this unity in the overall composition of the subject matter. The picture must compel the viewer to examine the whole portrait.

To attain this effect, the photographer makes sure that the viewer's eyes do not get fixated on the center of the art piece by using such techniques as the rule of thirds where the subject matter is placed off-center, somewhere one-third or two-thirds from any edge of the picture.

The photograph likewise achieves unity by presenting a coherent theme found either in the subject matter itself or in attributes of the subject matter such as texture, color, patterns, contrast and even emotion.

Unity can be attained by presenting an aesthetic arrangement of the subject matter that flows fluidly from left to right, top to bottom and round the picture.

Good leaders and managers should pursue this unity principle in their organizations or enterprises. They should maintain unity of purpose, unity of command and unity of action.

Unity of purpose is sharing a common goal. Unity of command means that the leader has the full support of his organization. Unity of action means all units of the organization are moving together to create a sum much greater than the parts.

Every member of the corporate team must know his or her precise role and contribute fully to the unified vision and mission. Factionalism should be eradicated and, in its place, must stand one unified body.

2. Harmony

Closely linked to unity is the principle of harmony, for it is hard to achieve the former without the latter. Harmony, however, brings the additional dimension of mutual reinforcement among the various elements of the art work.

There is no jarring piece or discordant note. There is a pleasant gelling of the art elements, which sing out in chorus because they are meant to be together. Harmony is synchronized flow.

Photographers employ techniques like pattern formation and symmetry where the repetition of objects, lines, shapes and people produce visual fluidity.

Leaders and managers need harmonious organizations, partnerships and relationships. They achieve this by making sure that there is a perfect fit among the company's objectives, strategies, programs, thrusts, people and systems.

One must not undermine the other, but rather amplify it. Since harmony is synchronized flow, leaders and managers must nurture a common culture or a shared way of doing things and establish cross functional teams work together. Good vertical and lateral communication is vital for organizational harmony.

3. Will

The great artist demonstrates supreme will in his work. He says this is "I" while inviting the rest of the world to identify with that "I." The great artist has a grand design, a big dream to achieve, a deep understanding of man and the world he lives in.

The photograph illustrates will through the power of a dominant theme. The photographer who masters speed and aperture settings is able to freeze the subject matter or blur it for effect. He can also create tremendous depth of field or sharpen a solitary figure against a hazy background and foreground. In short, the photographer deliberately wills a desired effect.

THE AUTHOR

Leaders and managers must know their precise bottom line. Their plans should spell out the desired outcomes in terms of measurable performance indicators, which everybody can understand, relate to and accomplish.

These performance indicators or measures must be intimately linked to concrete rewards and recognition. Will means that the vision and mission of the organization are brought all the way down to the little activities and tasks that the groups and individuals perform.

Will means that resources are allocated to strategies that directly address the achievement of the organization's desired outcomes.

4. Strength

Strength is the courage to express one's ingenuity and talents. Art with strength is both daring and virtuous. It is not ashamed to shout and deafen. Strength is pride glowing through the masterpiece of the artist. It personifies the ego and, therefore, makes the work of art stand out.

The photographer sometimes exhibits strength through the boldness of the subject matter or through the expert use of the camera.

In the photograph, this is quite evident in the artist's ability to tame light and weave calibrated lines in his pictorial tapestry to illustrate great character in a portrait or dazzling drama in a landscape.

The leader or manager, as the pillar of strength, is the role model who must live out the values and virtues of the organization. He speaks for and in behalf of his people. He chooses his captains and lieutenants well.

The leader inspires his troops with decisive but well calculated moves. Strength in an organization means having high levels of skill and competency to excel in a competitive world and win convincingly. This means training and good regimentation.

Strength likewise means raising organizational standards through the build-up of distinct advantages. The strong leader builds personal charisma. He optimizes the use of resources by investing them in the few things that will make a big difference.

5. Intuition

The greatest of all art were created because of the artists' intuition, a true knowing without the need for tedious technical processes. Intuition captures the essence of humanity by rendering on canvas or on stone the magnificence of our divine nature.

The intuitive artist proceeds and builds from the past, glides over the present and pole vaults into the future. He is born before his time. He allows the here and now to get a glimpse of tomorrow. He creates. He innovates. He evangelizes.

Photographers encounter artistic insights by constantly changing their perspective on a subject matter. They take it from above, from below, from all sides and angles, with all types of lenses and filters. Photographers practice intuition by continually experimenting and experiencing.

Then, they step back to reflect on their creation, only to do more experimentation and savor more experiences.

The intuitive photographer is driven to take a thousand shots to get the right one. In fact, he does not get the right one, it gets him. He just shoots.

The leader is an innovator. Even before his present ventures reach their peak, he is already on his next project. He is constantly seeking new approaches to old problems and converting present problems into excellent opportunities.

The intuitive leader endeavors to prevent his organization from becoming obsolete. Novelty is encouraged and novelty that works is rewarded.

6. Balance and contrast

Life and great art are manifestations of balance and contrast. In Eastern philosophy this is yin and yang, the female and the male principle. Everywhere, we see opposites that are, at one level, contrasts, but, at another level, balancing forces which counterpoint one another.

One cannot exist without the reversed reflection. There is darkness and light, truth and falsehood. Good and bad, up and down, left and right. These opposites dance like a pair of quarreling lovers.

The photographer revels in the use of balance and contrast. His most versatile tool is light and shadow, the contrast of black and white. He uses the grays in between to highlight the difference. The photographer balances his composition by deliberately off-balancing it.

He contrasts shapes, textures, moods and colors. The desired effect is an asymmetry that blends rather than distracts, like a Zen garden.

The leader or manager needs both yin and yang in the work place. There is task versus people, substance versus process, pressure versus nurture, strict versus tolerant, directional versus empowering, precise versus ambiguous, authoritative versus participatory, logical versus creative, and so forth.

There is indeed a time and season for everything depending on the situation, the competency level of the people and the resources of the organization. The leader must be flexible and versatile.

7. Simplicity and purity

Less is more. This is the classic formula for timeless art. The more an artist complicates and clutters his art, the more confusing and incomprehensible it becomes. Purity and simplicity in art provide visual clarity and elegance.

The photographer isolates a slice from life by focusing the camera's eye on one central figure. The background is stark and bare. The elements of the photograph are few and spaced out. Monochromes and mono-shapes are preferred. Lines are minimized. Texture is consistent.

The leader or manager must have a good grasp of the logic of his business and the industry it is in. He must be able to pinpoint the few critical variables that best determine success or failure.

From this, he is able to craft a single strategy that will make all the difference. Structures must be simple. The systems straightforward and the signals clear. The leader who is simple and pure has no complex motives, just a desire to serve.

8. Empathy and compassion

The artist who understands humanity can express himself well. As he identifies closely with his subject, he can render it in a very profound and deeply significant way. Empathy and compassion jump out of the work of art and capture the heart of the beholder.

The photographer must be able to engage his viewer by choosing subjects with high human interest. He can win his audience by humor or horror, love or loneliness. A frown, a smile, a warm kiss or even a painful grimace are good ingredients. Even inanimate objects can be humanized by the skillful interplay of visual images.

The leader or manager learns early on in the game that people are his most valuable resource. His job is to motivate his entire team to reach their full potential. He must have high personal and social skills. This means that he must first be an expert to gain confidence in order to win the trust of his people.

He must be able to inspire by understanding their needs, awakening their minds and touching their hearts.

9. Truth

Art is truth. It is true when it freely expresses the feelings of the artist. It does not cheat by relying on mere technique. It does not copy nor reproduce the truth of others. Truth is being faithful to one's self and being one with the One. Truth is original creation.

The photographer as artist does not contrive nor artificially concoct his art. He captures the truth by allowing his subject matter to project itself. He coaxes rather than dictates. He cajoles rather than interferes. He is not a blind imitator. He shoots with eyes that see beyond the obvious.

The leader or manager who espouses truth is transparent in his words and deeds. He is open to new ideas and freely shares his own. He accepts criticisms to improve himself. He does not

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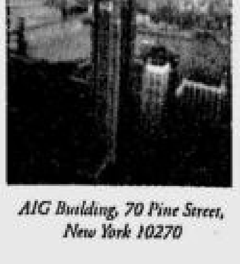

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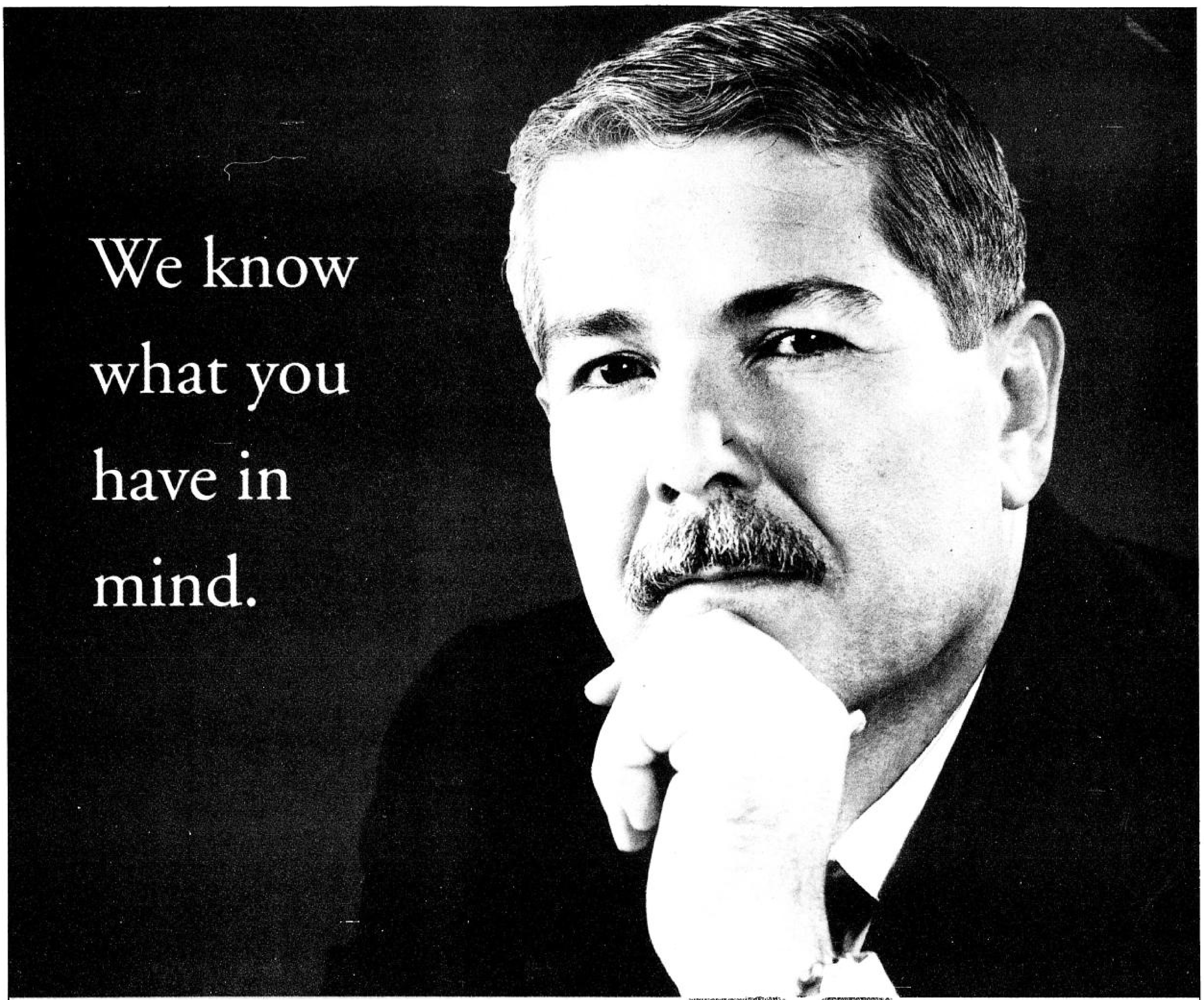

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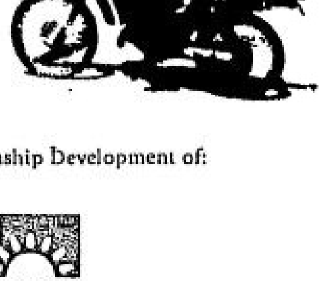

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FIL-AM SCULPTOR E. NERI ABILLAR

To go global, one must look within

By Cora Llamas

AS a young high school student in California, E. Neri Abillar was already ahead of his peers, thanks to a Filipino grandfather who taught him carpentry—welding, working with wood, combining the different materials, and all that technical stuff that used a lot of dangerous tools—as a boy, and a voracious appetite for books on art and culture. Yet at that age, something inside him yearned for something beyond the classical interpretation. His close friendships with his African-American friends showed him the way. Like Picasso before him, he began studying their culture.

"I personally believe that Picasso saw the highest level of honesty involved [in the tribal art]," the 26-year-old sculptor explains his fascination. "There was no analyzing. Cubism and any art that came out of Europe had to be analyzed and criticized, and given all this b--ls--t that really doesn't have to happen with art. Tribal art was an abstract form that was naturally produced, as opposed to the European style of art, where the abstract form is only abstract because [it was a trend that was] no longer classical. With African art, you got this weirdness right away. It's not a lack of dexterity or technical ability. The Africans just saw these images in their heads. Their views on life were not clouded by complications in society, of people telling you, 'That's the wrong thing.' [In contrast], one reason kids create art that's classical is because they're taught to."

TO GO/ p.D3

ABILLAR'S work is infused with Afro-Asian motifs.

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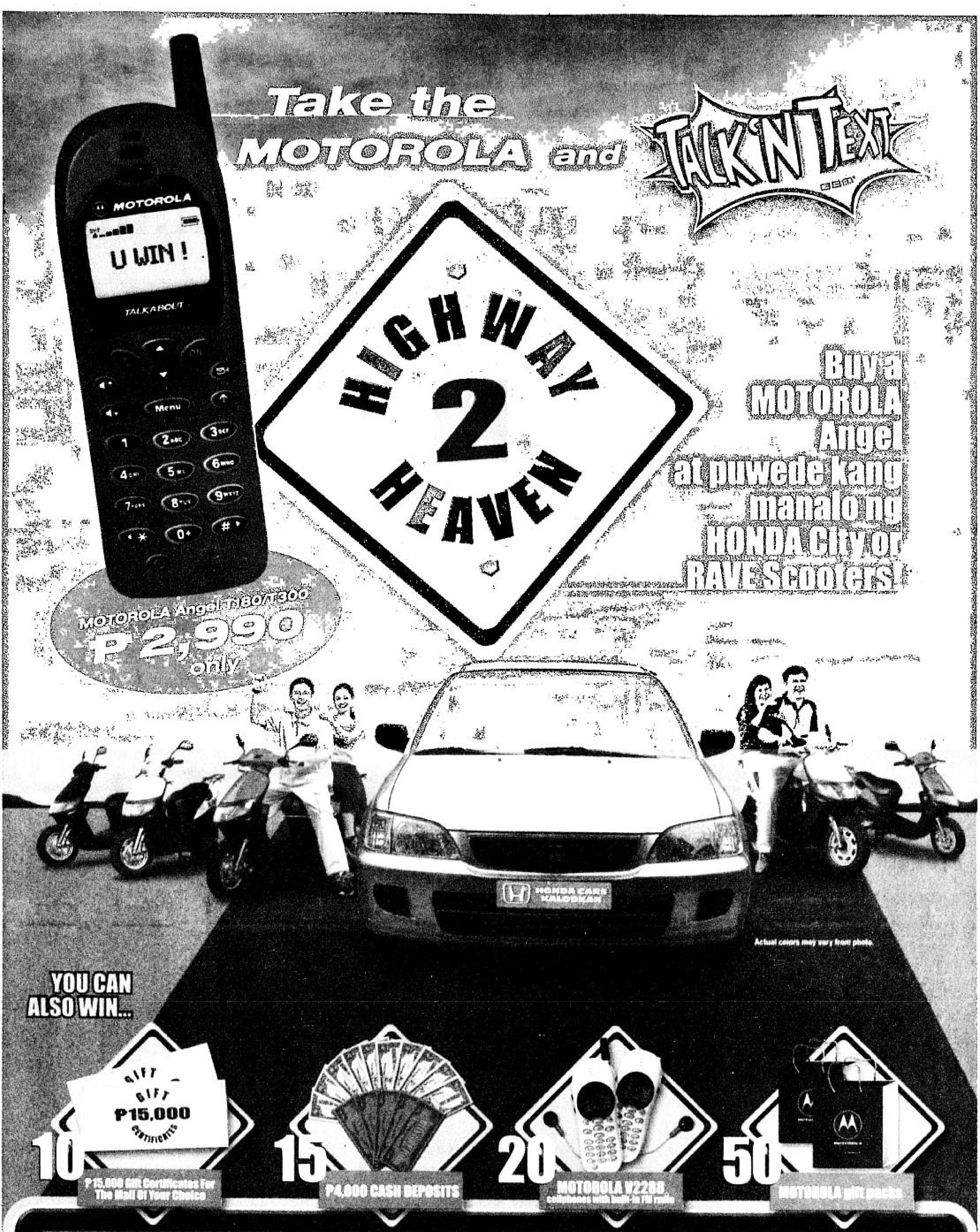

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2. This promo is exclusive to the purchase of Motorola Angels T300/T180 **simlocked** to the SMART network via Piltel's Talk 'N Text, and only from authorized dealers and outlets listed below.

3. The customer indicates his name, address, contact numbers, and affixes his signature on a piece of paper and encloses this in a white legal-size envelope with a photocopy of the invoice and IMEI label. Said label is found on the side of the cellular phone box/package.

4. The customer must likewise include one (1) copy of the filled-out Owner's Certificate form. The cellular phone number must also be included.

5. The customer may drop the entry at dropboxes located at TSI outlets or send or mail to: **HIGHWAY 2 HEAVEN RAFFLE,** c/o INNOVISIONS, INC., Rm. 309 Cattleya Condominium, 235 Salcedo Street, Legaspi Village, Makati City 1229. A DTI representative will be invited to be present during the opening of drop boxes.

6. Prizes include:
Grand Prize : One (1) Honda City 1.3 LXi (Manual transmission)
Second Prizes : Five (5) Motorized Rave Scooters 50cc
Third Prizes : Ten (10) ₱15,000.00 Gift Certificates for a mall of the winners' choice
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Fifth Prizes : Twenty (20) Motorola V2288 cell phones simlocked to the Talk 'N Text network
Consolation Prizes : Fifty (50) Motorola gift packs worth ₱500.00

7. Promo period is from **June 25 to August 30, 2001.**

8. All entries must be dropped in drop boxes no later than **August 30, 2001**. Mailed-in entries must be postmarked on or before August 30, 2001 and must be received by Innovisions, Inc. no later than September 13, 2001.

9. The raffle draw will be held at 3 PM, Sept. 15, 2001, at the INNOVISIONS, INC. office, Motorola's merchandising agency, at Rm. 309 Cattleya Condominium, 235 Salcedo Street, Legaspi Village, Makati City 1229. A DTI representative shall be invited to witness the draw.

10. A participant may **only win once.** In case a name is drawn more than once, he/she receives the prize with the bigger value.

11. Winners will be notified via registered mail and published in at least two (2) nationwide leading print publications. Motorola shall likewise call the winner through his/her cellphone and/or notify via text.

12. Prizes are not convertible to cash.

13. All prizes exceeding ₱10,000 are tax-free. Prizes shall be shipped to winners outside of Metro Manila. Motorola will shoulder shipment costs.

14. This nationwide promo is exclusive for purchases of Motorola Angels T300/T180 Talk 'N Text, available in the outlets listed below.

15. Prizes can be redeemed within sixty (60) calendar days from receipt of notification. Winners must present any valid identification card (i.e. Passport, Driver's License, SSS, GSIS, TIN), the notification document, and the original invoice/receipt from the purchase of the cellular phone, and original copy of the Owner's Certificate.

16. GMA winners may claim their prizes at INNOVISIONS, INC., Rm. 309 Cattleya Condominium, 235 Salcedo Street, Legaspi Village, Makati City 1229, except for the car and motorized scooters. Instead, certificates will be issued at said office to the winners. The originals of the said certificates must be presented at Honda Cars Kalookan, for the Honda City 1.3LXi (manual), at JT Bikes and Accessories Center Corp. (311 Rizal Ave. Ext., Caloocan City) for the RAVE scooters where various documents and ownership papers will be processed before the release of said prizes. The winners will shoulder the cost of LTO registration and other documentation.

17. Employees of Motorola Communications Phils., Inc., as well as their merchandising agency Innovisions, Inc., and participating outlets/dealers, including their relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified from joining the raffle.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0857, Series of 2001.

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MOTOROLA

Arts and crafts workshop

INDUSTRIAL artist and painter Victor Bella, who graduated fine arts in Maastricht Academy of Visual Arts, Holland, will hold a workshop series titled "Arts Inspiration Series for Fun, Gift-giving and Profit." The workshop schedule and description can be accessed through his site at www.geocities.com/victor_bella/schedule.html.

Courses include artistic candle-making with decorative mold-making, decorative painting on glass, metal and ceramics, acrylic painting on canvas, flower sculpture, figurine-making and decorative silicon rubber mold-making.

Artistic candle-making will cover figurine, layered container, gel and floating with special features such as aromatherapy, scented, slow burning, dripless, hand-painted, and insect-repellent versions including decorative mold-making techniques.

Decorative painting on glass, metal and ceramics will teach how to transform inexpensive materials sparkle with color and elegance. Projects include gem stone, perfume bottles, floating candle container, canister, mugs and vases.

Figurine-making covers transparent, translucent, opaque figurines, jewelry boxes and picture frames out of resin.

Painting nature in acrylic includes all the essential step-by-step and basic and advance techniques in painting on canvas. Students will learn how to handle painting with ease and in tackling with confidence landscapes, flowers, underwater and cloudscapes.

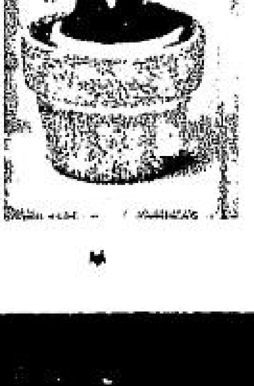
Silicon rubber mold making covers decorative mold made out of extremely durable rubber for mass reproduction of artworks such as figurines, candles, jewelry boxes and picture frames.

Flower sculpture includes the creation of non-withering vibrant and colorful flowers in both classic and modern styles using either oven-fire able or air drying clay. Flowers to be produced are orchids, roses, calla lily, daisies, tulips and sunflowers.

A tutorial program is also offered.

Students will receive complete, updated and world-standard information with actual hands-on. Interested participants who wish to see work samples may visit www.geocities.com/victor_bella for work samples or www.geocities.com/victor_bellalschedule.html.

Call 890-3778 or 0917-3683212 from 10 a.m.-12 p.m. and 1 a.m.-5 p.m. from Mondays to Fridays. Lessons begin on June 30, at 30 Polaris St., Bel-Air, Makati.



To go global, one must look within

(From page D1)

The fine arts alumnus from the Santa Clara University in California, who's now taking his graduate studies in New York's Pratt School of Art, credits his growth to the mentors who helped him along the way. What he does lament is that education and degrees, though valuable, can become a box that limits creativity or a trap that dictates standards.

"All of us have to go to school," he concedes. "And in some ways, a degree validates what you do. But in fact, what you learn in art school is not how to do things, but how to think, how to live your own life, and why you have to develop your own art. But sometimes, as an artist, you're placed on a worldly pedestal, [the school and degree] validate your work. When, honestly, I still would have gotten to where I am right now even if I didn't go to school."

Though Abillar modestly says he's just "on the brink" of making it big, he's gone quite a bit far, compared to artists his own age. His solo and dual exhibits in California have stirred the interest of critics, patrons, experts and the masters. His pieces have been shown alongside the works of other artists at the San Jose Art Museum, the De Saussiest Museum and the Crocker Art Museum. Most other twentysomething sculptors are still putting a body of work together and hammering on doors. If one is to go by the status quo, most of them won't establish themselves until they're 50.

TRIBAL African-inspired work

Not surprisingly, one of Abillar's favorites is the late Jean-Michel Basquiat, the African-American visual artist who skyrocketed to fame in the 1970s and 1980s despite the absence of a classical education. "The art world couldn't get past the fact that he was black, because 95 percent of the artists in the US are white males," muses Abillar, connecting Basquiat's predicament with his own, "I don't know how much of [the attention I'm getting is] due to the fact that I'm Filipino, young and different."

His paisanos in this old country will have a chance to see Abillar's art in his forthcoming exhibit, "Doors," which will open on June 29, 5 p.m., at the El Estilo De Art Gallery at the Rockwell Center. The young sculptor, breaking boundaries again with this show, promises it won't be "another stuffy exhibit. There will be food and wine," he grins, "I just want people to come here, enjoy themselves, have conversation and look at the art."

Filipino connection

Abillar's parents, who migrated to the US in the early '70s, worked long hours in the medical industry. Dad Alberto was a sonagrapher and mom Editha was a nurse. Like with all Filipino families, here or overseas, the grandparents spent a large amount of time raising E. Neri (the E is for Edilberto) and his younger brother Allan, now 20. Abillar's affection for the old folks is still obvious.

"Grandpa was remodeling homes and I started helping him in kindergarten. By the third grade, we were putting together a staircase. Grandma, who was a UP professor, was so big on education. She'd lecture and lecture even during dinner!"

Visits from other Filipinos, some of them fleeing the Marcos regime, started E. Neri on his quest for his heritage. Helping him form the right questions were the parallels he drew from his Afro-Ameri-

TO GO/ p. D4

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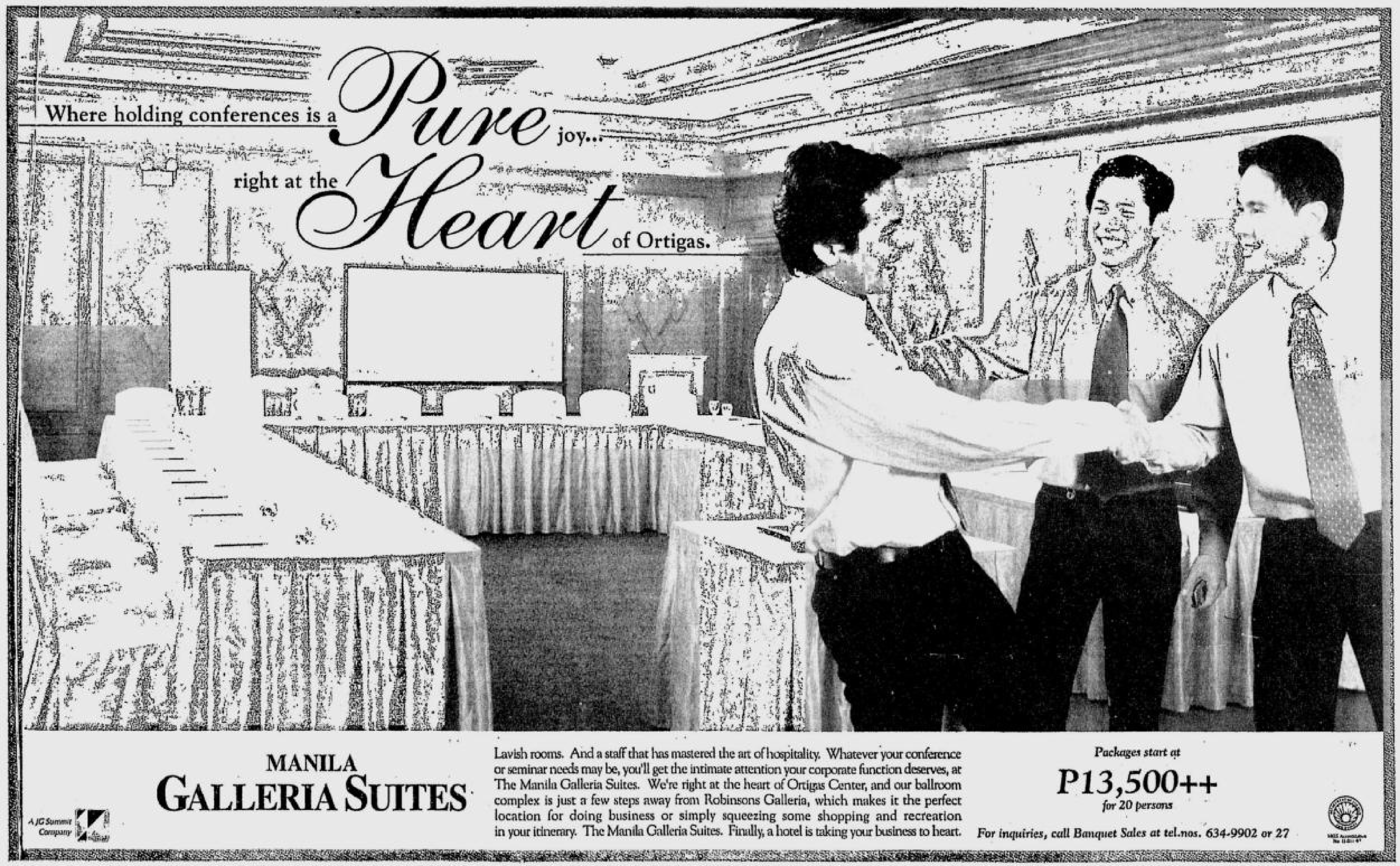

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To go global, one must look within

(From page D3)

can friends; he says that the resemblance between the two peoples (the rhythm, the love for music, the close-family ties) can be striking.

"As far as Filipinos are concerned, we don't have the kind of books that you have here, whereas the Afro-American history is so studied in the US. I didn't even know that there were Muslims in the South until I was in high school! Every time I learn something new about the Afro-Americans, I'd try to find an analogy in the Philippine context. And I'd ask the Filipinos around me." Some of what he learned were quite different from what the US books taught. For example, Americans perceive themselves as the great liberators of the Filipinos in World War II. Abillar heard otherwise from Filipino veterans: "The Americans wouldn't have survived our jungles if Filipino guerillas were not helping them."

Beyond convention

Abillar, who teaches art and math at the Laguna Creek High School, hopes to mentor a few young Filipino artists in the same way that his US professors guided him. In Abillar's book, a mentor is professor, best friend and constructive critic who pushes the student to do his best and even gives him guidance about personal problems. His mentors—successful professors/artists Sam Hernandez and Peter Volkos, to name two—played a large part in Abillar's life in art. They encouraged him to major in fine arts (he ended up doing a double major with biology), and included him in their own exhibits.

"When they said they didn't like a body of work that I created, they meant that it had been done before. Making something new eventually makes it easier to have shows."

In the same way, Abillar encourages his students to continue breaking new ground. "Stop looking at what Picasso did, because he looked at tribal society. Why should you have to go backward? Look at the art in Mindanao, see things in the provinces, and just open your mind to it. I'm not talking about the whole picture of fiestas and planting women which have been done before. There are so many things that can still be done, if only you stop going the conventional way. If your grandmother works in the fish market, work on that fish a little bit. I haven't seen anyone do rice pictures: paint rice and paint with the rice. Dye it and throw it on the canvas and go crazy with it!"

Once Abillar's future Pinoy students manage to amass a body of work, he plans to hold an exhibit for them and invite US agents. Spreading the word wouldn't be a problem. According to Abillar, Europeans and Americans know of and are genuinely interested in Filipino artists. Word in the expat art circles has it that the highest-paid painter in the world today is allegedly Manuel Ocampo, whose works have been regarded as historical, political and social commentaries. Pacita Abad is gaining a large following among Westerners, counting among her collectors the wife of Hollywood star Danny Glover ("Lethal Weapon") and screenwriter Terry McMillan ("Waiting to Exhale," "How Stella Got Her Groove Back").

Still, for all that global attention, Abillar won't forget the poor and underprivileged. This Fil-Am doesn't shut his eyes at squatter colonies, and trooped to Edsa II and III to feel the pulse of the people. He'd like to try and adopt here some of the educational practices abroad.

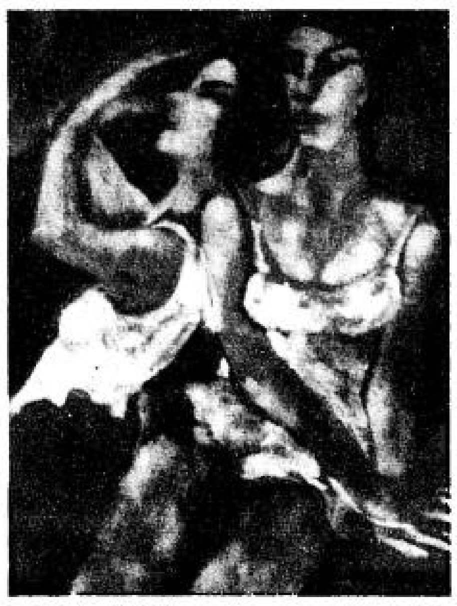
One design school in Alabama requires its senior students to visit the state's rural areas, "utilize the material that [the rural folk] have and create a space that is more presentable and has structural and architectural integrity. We can do the same thing here with our architectural or design schools: have students create a space that is more livable and more sanitary for the poor; some of that school's alumni could donate cement and the materials so the homes won't fall apart.

"Look, I'm not saying that building a new house in the squatters' area will turn the people's lives around, but it's gonna make them feel better about their situation."

It's all part and parcel of Abillar's vision for his art and his life: Do something different, work with what you have, and maybe turn the world around.

"Doors," an exhibit by E. Neri Abillar, will open at the El Estilo De Art Gallery at the Rockwell Center on June 29, at 5 p.m.

E. NERI ABILLAR: Young Fil-Am artist who has found his roots PHOTOS: JOHNNY VILLENA



"BALLERINA," pastel on velour, 27"x21"

Onib Olmedo remembered at Ad Infinitum

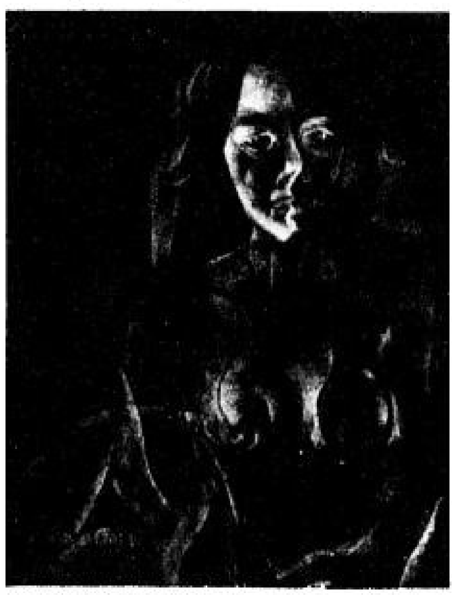
SELECTED works of the late great painter Luis "Onib" Olmedo are the main feature at the "Gallery of the Masters" at the Ad Infinitum Galleries June 25.

Located at 190 F. Blumentritt St., San Juan (tel. 726-9015 and 724-3032), Ad Infinitum features collectors' pieces such as two works of oil on canvas, 10 of pastel and velour, one of pastel on handmade paper and 14 drawings. Among the paintings on exhibit are the 35"x24" oil on canvas, "CEO Series: Playing Trumpet"; the 27"x21" the pastel on velour "Ballerinas," "Caucasian Lady," "Nude on Red," "Dog," "Lady," "Touch"; and the oil and ink "Man at Rest." Other outstanding works are a pastel on handmade paper work titled "The Unmasking"; and several bookpiece drawings including "Greed," "China Man" and "Man and His Cat."

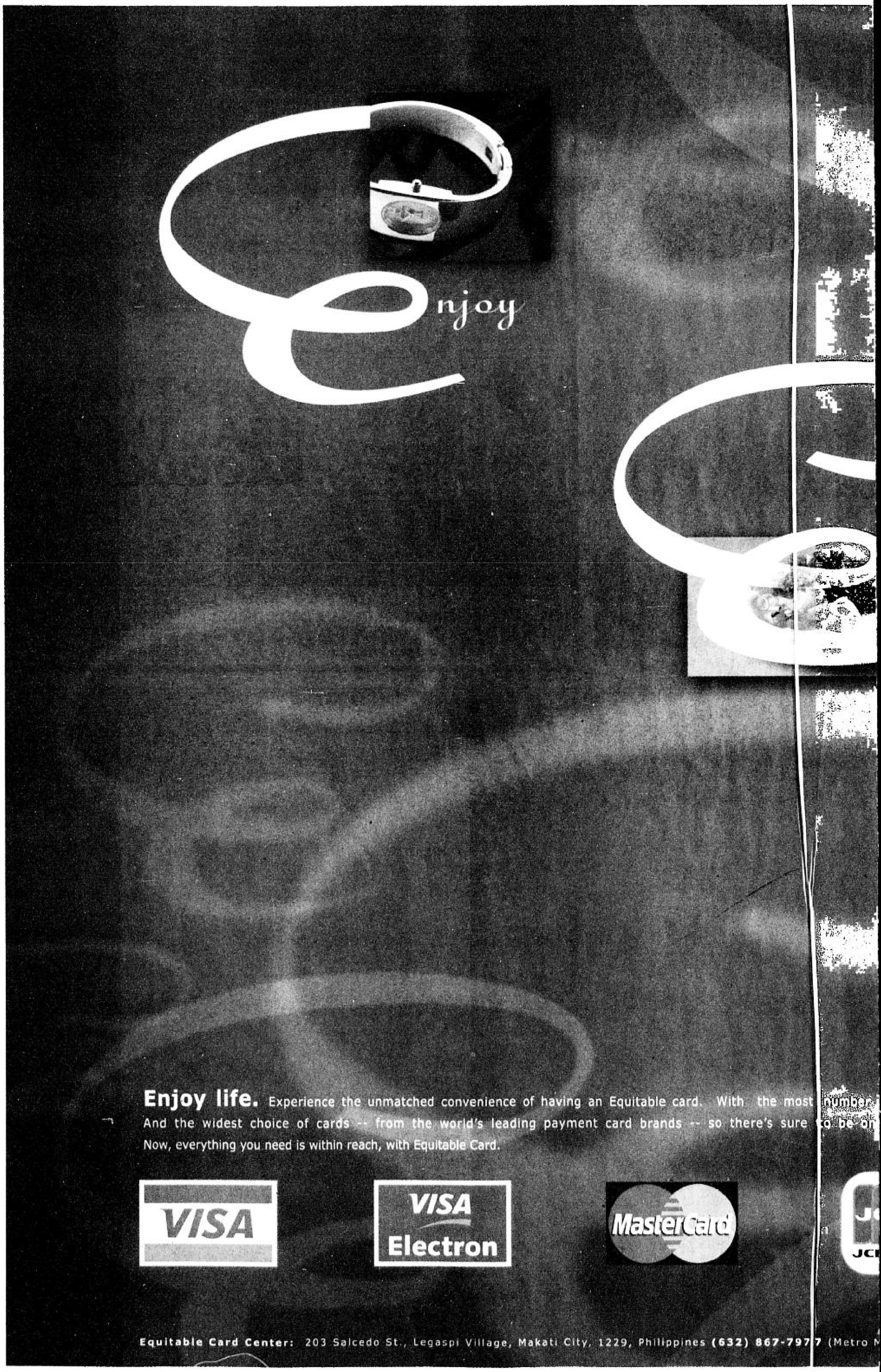
Onib was an architect by profession but turned to painting later on. He first created a stir in the art world with his "Singkong Suka" (Five Cent Vinegar) show held at the Solidaridad Galleries. He participated in several other group shows before he decided in 1973 to give up a flourishing career in architecture to become a full-time painter.

Onib won the gold medal in several painting competitions in the '70s and the '80s, in particular the 1979 AMP Annual Art Competition, the 1979 Mobil Art Competition, and the 1981 AMP Annual Art Competition. He received the CCP Thirteen Artists Awards in 1994. His paintings have recently been the subject of interest in auctions of Sotheby's and Christie's in Singapore.

He passed away in 1997.



"NUDE ON BLACK," pastel on velour, 22"x28"



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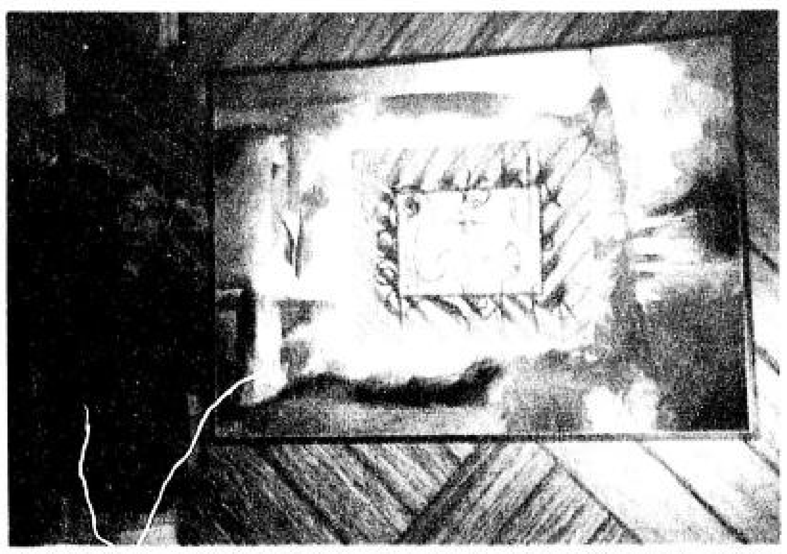
Spanish painter Martin-Calero at Metropolitan Museum



"ANTONIA'S AMERICAN DREAM," by Bicolano artist Elmer Sergio, recently passed the first screening of the international Osaka Triennale 2001 Exhibit to be held in Osaka, Japan, on Dec.23, under the auspices of the Osaka Foundation of Culture. Sergio's artwork will be on display at Blk. 88, Lot 19, Diwata St., Lagro Subdivision, Novaliches, QC. Call 930-2724.

VISUAL ARTS

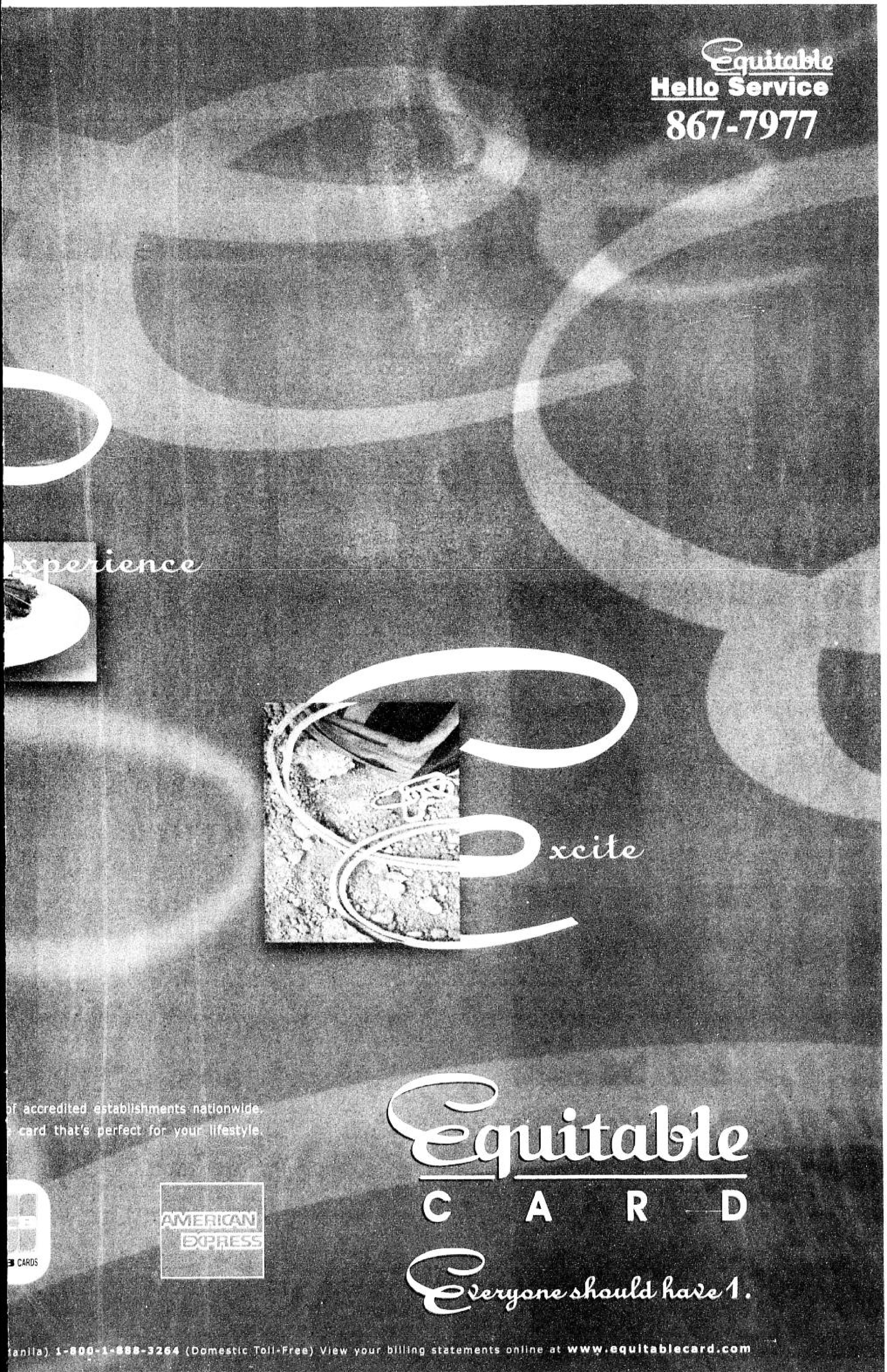
SPANISH PAINTER AT THE MET. An exceptional one-man exhibit on abstract artworks by Spanish painter Gonzalo Martin-Calero will be opened to the public at the catwalk of the Metropolitan Museum of Manila on June 28. Dubbed "Verdad," the exhibit features 90 large-scale works on paper, collages, drawings and paintings of the artist from 1996-2001. The exhibit will run until July 28. Call 523-7855.

ESCORA AT THE ENTERPRISE CENTER. Kiko Escora mounts a one-man exhibit dubbed "Synthetic Solitude" at the Big and Small Art Gallery, 17 L, The Enterprise Center, 6766 Ayala Ave., Makati City. Call 371-8887.

EXHIBIT FOR A CAUSE. The Kapisanan ng mga Mabuingang Artistikong Isipan (Kamai) holds its first major art exhibit for the year at the Philamlife Art Center, Philamlife Building, UN Avenue, Manila. Dubbed "Diversity: Varied Expressions from the Masters," the exhibit features the latest works of Greg Bolanos, Andy Cabi, Cee Cadid, Elmer Gernale, Fines Magpusao, Jun Martinez, Loreto Racuya and Godofredo Reyes. The exhibit runs until July 8.

FIL-SPANISH CULTURAL GATHERING

Banco Santander Phils. Inc. (BSPI) officials and friends gather to view the BSPI-sponsored Kasaysayan cultural exhibit, Fundacion Santiago's compilation of photographs of the Philippines taken during the 19th century. The exhibit was held at the Filipinas Heritage Library in Makati, which coincided with the announcement of BSPI's expansion of its personal investment-banking program. Gracing the event are (from left) Commercial Counselor Oscar Via, Santander Investment Securities Phils. Inc. general manager Joel Mendoza, personal investment-banking head Rustico C. Nazrieno Jr., corporate communications officer Liezl Marquez, His Excellency Spanish Ambassador to the Philippines Tomas Rodriguez Pantoja and Fundacion Santiago executive director Chaco Molina.



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PARAS EXHIBIT. Artist Edille Paras holds an exhibit dubbed "Transformations" at the Starbucks 6750 Building, Ayala Avenue, Makati City. The exhibit will be showcasing 12 paintings. The exhibit runs until July 8.

SENA AT THE CRUCIBLE. Painter Fernando B. Sena will hold his latest exhibit dubbed "Floresena" at the Crucible Gallery, 4/F, Building A, SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City on June 26-July 15.

ARTISTIC COUPLE AT MEGAMALL. Businessman Hugo Lubag Jr. and his wife Esperanza present an exhibit at the Art Center, 4/F, Building A, SM Megamall [illegible] July 8. Jun Lubag's theme centers about the beauty of nature. He vividly paints the [illegible] of different ethnic groups in their [illegible] and traditional costumes. Esperanza paints [illegible].

GROUP SHOW AT CAPITOL MEDICAL. [illegible] Fernando Sena's art students [illegible] teachers, engineers and professionals [illegible] exhibit until June 30 at the Capitol Medical Center, Scout Magbanua, QC. Participants [illegible] Bernardo [illegible] Anthony Hermoso [illegible] Rubio [illegible] Harold Pada [illegible] Marcelo Beldoman [illegible] Marlene Ong, Lyn Chua, Nico Bautista [illegible] Pinchi Gonzaga [illegible] Josephine Cucio [illegible] Lamarte [illegible] Arrojado, Ora Carmelo, Stephanie [illegible] Pol Messina, Norberto Valles [illegible] Bernardo Rodgie Gapasao, Dr. [illegible] Belone, Dr. Anne Atienza, Dr. Mavel Dio [illegible] Edwin Sagayno and Danilo Patungao.

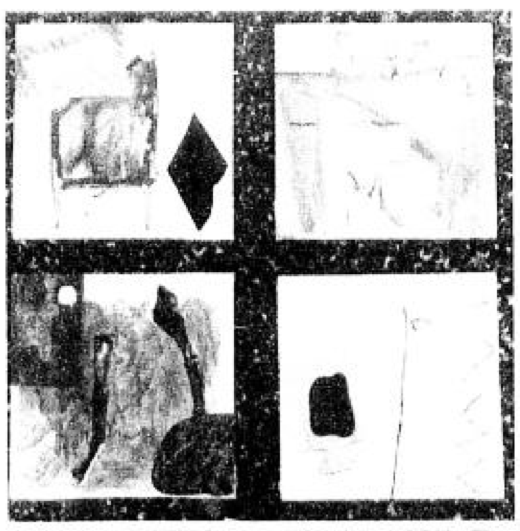
YOUNG ARTISTS AT GSIS MUSEUM. An exhibit by the Avante Expressionist Group, ages 2-16 years old, is currently featured at the Theater Hallway of the GSIS Museum. Dubbed "Rhapsody of Co[illegible]," the exhibit shows the young artists' expressions [illegible] modern, freshly emotional and enthusiastic [illegible] Hernandez, R.C. Hernandez [illegible] Christian Luis [illegible] Erika Isae Marcelo [illegible] Reyna Yu, Tiffany Uy [illegible] Mary Ann Yap. The exhibit runs until June 30. [illegible]

VELASCO AT LOPEZ MUSEUM. [illegible] dubbed "Now and Then: A Flower [illegible]" [illegible] pressed flowers [illegible] pressing flowers onto paper and framing them as decorative pieces. Her flower [illegible] her advocacy for protection and [illegible] of the environment. The show will run June 25-[illegible] at the Lopez Museum Shop, G/F Power Plant Mall, Rockwell. Call 898-0801.

GROUP EXHIBIT. Bataawing Pangkay Art Group will mount their second group exhibit on June 29 at the [illegible] World Center, 330 Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City. Participating artists include Jasper de Leon, Raul Delos III, Norman Dico, Eric Quas [illegible] Fran Sarol, Isaac Davong Mendoza, John Paul Olivares, Omar Sebastian and Kris Sosmilor.

ART WORKSHOP IN SORSOGON. Manuel [illegible] Rebosa, a cartoonist, portrait and visual artist, will hold an art exhibit and art workshop on basic sketching and advanced painting in Sorsogon City on June 28-29 at Rizal Street, Sorsogon City. Call 0917-[illegible].

ART COMPETITION. The Cultural Center of the Philippines Visual Arts Unit announces that applications are now accepted to the 6th Oita Asian Sculpture Competition and Exhibition in Japan. Applicants must be less than 50 years old as of April 30, 2001. Only one entry will be accepted per individual or group. Submitted works must be original, not been exhibited and must be suitable and durable for outdoor display. Deadline for filing of applications is on Aug. 15. Application forms are available at the CCP Visual Arts Unit. Call 832-3702.



THREE PAINTERS AT WEST GALLERY. "The Paint Thing" features recent works of Annie Cabigting, Maggie Obana and Kelly Ramos. The exhibit runs until July 10 at the West Gallery, Glorietta 4, Ayala Center, Makati City. Call 752-7028.

WASHINGTON Sycip and Marixi Prieto

PAENG Buenaventura and Marivic Rufino Buenaventura

BELGIUM Ambassador and Mme. Roland Von Remoortele and Balti Baltazar

MME. Lena Hakansson of Sweden and Marit Yuchengco

NETHERLANDS Ambassador Theo Arnold and Ivi Costa

Glittering French affair and Duke of York's lightning visit to RP

DIPLOMATIC SWIRL

By Amiga

AURELIO Montinola III

AMBASSADOR Domingo Siazon

PEOPLE are still talking about the glittering sit-down dinner hosted by French Ambassador **Gilles Chouraqui**, which formally opened this year's celebration of the "French Spring in Manila" at the ballroom of the Mandarin Oriental. Now on its third year, the event featured the Contra Bass.

Some 500 guests attended the cocktails at the Clipper Lounge and then made their way to the ballroom where dinner started with goose liver parfait and smoked duck breast with mesclun salad, followed by oven-roasted sea bass topped with tomato compote set on capellini pasta and mussel-infused saffron sauce. Taste buds were cleared with a cranberry sorbet. So French. The piece de resistance was roasted pigeon breast in crepinette wrapped in savoy cabbage, celery potato mash, braised vegetables and truffle *jus*. And if you were still hungry, there was this yummy Brie with plum preserves and peach parfait in chilled raspberry sauce.

Guests, who gave £5,000 each, included Central Bank governor **Paeng Buenaventura** and the lovely **Marivic**; **Tito Yuchengco** with **Marit**, who looked so slim and elegant in an icy pale green strapless gown; **Ingrid Santamaria** who was in black and very excited that her Cebu-based symphony orchestra had been invited to play in Malacañang on June 12; the attractive and prodigiously successful L'Oreal girl **Leica Carpo** who gave away whitening agents; **Beth Day Romulo**, who was seated at the presidential table with **Marixi** and **Alex Prieto**; National Artist **Arturo Luz**; former Sen. Leticia Shahani, who was still looking for support for her NCCA bid; Ambassador **Domingo Siazon**; Spanish Ambassador **Tomas Pantoja** with **Isabel Wilson**, **Fortune Ledesma** and **George Sison**, who invited everyone to his 28th birthday on the 9th; **Jeanne Goulbourn** in silk; Turkish Ambassador **Veda Ilka**; Brazilian charge d' affaires **Carlos Carvalho**, who has bothered to read the "Noli" and the "Fili" in the original; **Ramon** and **Josie Sy** getting ready to bring their grandchildren to Orlando; Swedish Ambassador **Ulrick Hakansson**, Australian Ambassador **John** and **Alice Buckley**, Canadian Ambassador **Robert Collette**, Belgian Ambassador **Roland** and **Sylvia Von Remoortele**, Danish Ambassador **Peter Rosting** and European Union Ambassador **Yves Gussot**.

* * *

HRH **Andrew**, Duke of York, paid us a lightning visit in May and even the Hotel Inter-Continental where he stayed couldn't brag about it. British Ambassador and Ms **Alan Collins** hosted a reception with a cast of thousands that had yards of buffet tables and the military band playing for the occasion but little press coverage.

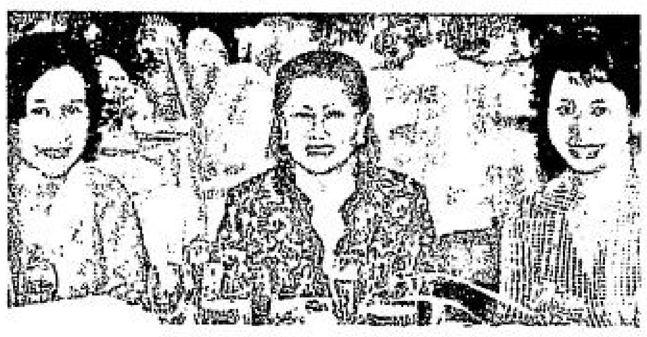
The Duke's visit was the centerpiece of the embassy's Maritime Britain 2001 celebration and included a courtesy call on President **Macapagal-Arroyo**, the opening of the embassy's new Trade and Investment Division, a call on the Philippine Navy Headquarters, groundbreaking for the new British school at Fort Bonifacio and a visit to the Malampaya Deep Water Gas to Power Project Structure in Palawan. The Malampaya project will provide much of the country's energy needs and hopefully bring down prices of electricity in the event that government brings down its taxes.

THE CONTRA Bass Orchestra

FRENCH Ambassador Gilles Chouraqui

NATIONAL Artist F. Sionil Jose and Alliance Française director Renaud Fessaguet

RUGGERO Barbieri and Fortune Ledesma


LOURDES Montinola, Josie Lichauco and Ces Drilon

MITA Rufino and Alex Prieto

PHOTOS BY BETOY JOHNSON

Truly a Dutch treat

AFTER SEEING animation greats from Holland as well as select pieces from the Philippines at the recently concluded two-day "Dutch Treat" at the Cinema 2 of the Shangri-La Plaza Mall, animation (as visiting Dutch director-producer Nico Crama says), has proven to be a fresh and exceptional art form.

Thanks to the Royal Netherlands embassy, Animagination, a Filipino group of independent animators, and Shangri-La Plaza Mall for bringing in "Dutch Treat," which featured the best animated short films from Holland with the special participation of four Filipino animated shorts.

The filmfest opened to an appreciative young audience with Netherlands Ambassador Theo Arnold and internationally known Dutch director-producer Crama as guests of honor and members of the diplomatic row as special guests. Crama, managing director and executive producer of the Holland Animation Foundation, provided brief history and annotations before each film was shown enabling viewers to understand and appreciate more the featured films.

Featured were the 2001 Oscar winner for Best Animated Short Film, "Father and Daughter" by Michael Dudok de Wit, "3 Misses" by Paul Driessen, "Sientje" by Christa Moesker, "Fuga" by Hans Nassenstein, "Famous Paintings" by Maarten Koopman, "Stop the Greenhouse Effect" by Paul and Menno de Nooijer, "I Move, So I Am" by Gerrit van Dijk, "Museum" by Petra Dolleman, "The Characters" by Evert de Beijer and "Oh My Darling" by Borge Ring plus our very own animated shorts namely "Anak Maynila" by Nonoy Dadivas; "Movements" by Arnel Telesforo, Marcus Nada, Breiner Medina, Vic Balanon, Ferdz Valencia and Jason Moss; "Doon Sa Kabila ng Bulkan" by Ellen Ramos and "The Ghostwriter" by Joey Agbayani.

A crowd favorite was Koopman's 17-minute "Famous Paintings." Koopman took viewers to an outrageous and imaginative journey of paintings of famous artists by tracing the work's origins and presenting a masterpiece in the finale.

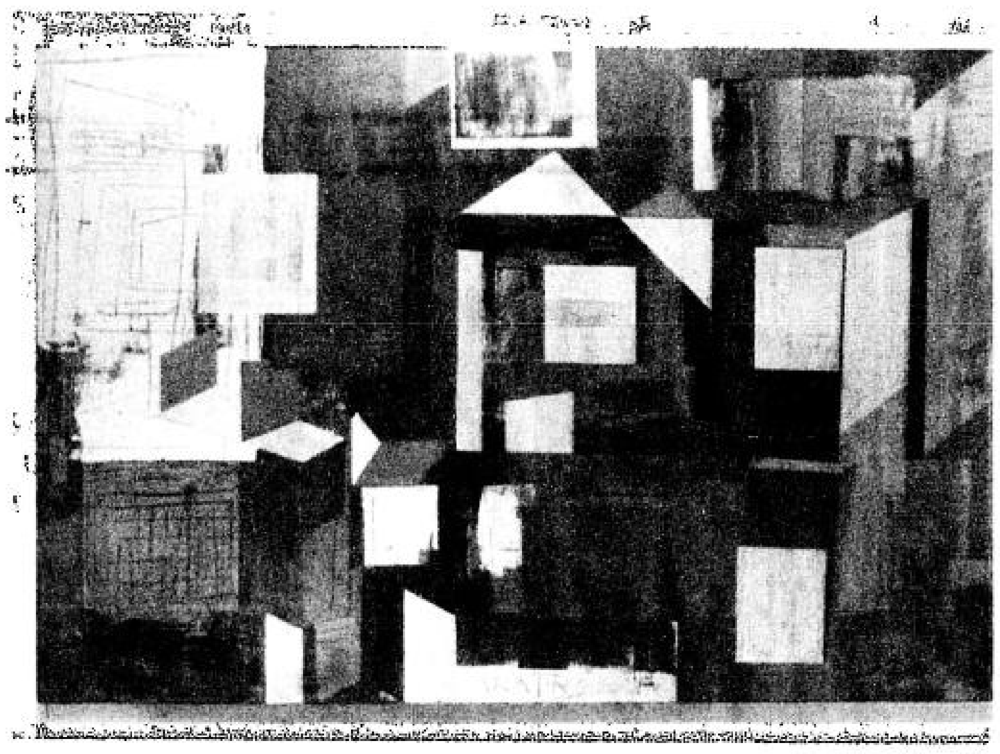
More than the usual filmfests being offered in Metro Manila, "Dutch Treat" was a totally different movie experience. After "Dutch Treat," the world of animation will never be the same again for the ordinary moviegoing public.

NETHERLANDS Ambassador Theo Arnold and wife Kessara (left) with Cess Crama

VIRGIE Moreno and Leticia Shahani

WILLY Gancia, Saki Ramos and Lali Lacaba

NICO Crama, Nick Deocampo, Maurits ter Kuile and Ricky Orellana



Lito Carating comes full circle

BY GINO DORMIENDO

AMONG THE SECOND-GENERATION abstractionists who burst into the scene in the late '70s, the names of Lao Lianben, Gus Albor and Lito Carating continue to stand out. All three, by coincidence, are showing their latest works at the newly opened Avellana Gallery (220 Fresno Road, Pasay City, until July 13), along with other established artists like Allan Cosio and wife Ivi, and a handful of young, budding artists who are being promoted by the gallery owner, Albert Avellana.

Both Lao and Albor have consistently produced highly appreciable works in their trademark minimalist mode though they have succumbed from time to time to color toning even in the most austere manner. Of the three, it is Carating who is the vaunted colorist, well-known for his award-winning series on the *lamanlupa* (subterranean creatures in lower folk mythology) and the *anilao* paintings, primarily delving into the underwater life forms, as inspired by the once-famous diving site in Batangas.

Carating's development took an unpredictable turn in an exhibit some years back where he delighted art viewers with his large-scale works on time and the weather, poetic abstractions that showed bright neon-like colors, a dense terrain of mesh and coils that seemed to float in space, which confirmed Carating's marvelous gifts as a colorist.

Carating's new works (which, by the way, are also on view at the lobby of the Pacific Plaza Towers in Fort Bonifacio) reveal a more refined, but still poetic, feeling for his seemingly inexhaustible palette. What is most arresting in the new oeuvre is the dominance of filigree-like texture on the surface, which he works with a sharp metal instrument that he had molded from a cake decorating tool. The resulting texture, which resembles the fine incisions in Lao's works, conceals or restrains the colors on the canvas, which reveals geometric precision over organic disorder.

This series is aptly called "Metallic Mist," and the silvery surface indeed casts a serenely luminous glow, which, together with the structural elements of layered patches, makes for very pleasing composition.

A Carating painting will not, however, remain completely minimalist by forsaking color as the de rigueur element. In "Angelus," the artist grimly contemplates the magical hour when dusk sets in, the last glow of the sun, like a creeping shadow behind the growing darkness. His densely layered squares, split apart or superimposed, are freed from the control of the canvas on which they are drawn, a perpetual dance of figures seemingly filled with vibrations and sensations of color.

Though belonging to an earlier phase, "Black Hole" entices with its cosmic view of equivalent positive-negative qualities, white and gray splashes on black background that seem to have spurted out of a paint tube.

Likewise, in "Tierra Griz," Carating shows his penchant for layering as well as texturing effects. The approach here is to create motion in the entire composition, an image of virtual chaos, with its splashes of acrylic literally smeared onto the surface offset by finely combed gridlines.

Carating literally goes to town with color in "Bukang Liwayway," in sharp contrast to the sedate, monochromatic "Metallic Mist." Here, the artist has assembled a veritable landscape of odds and ends of geometric configuration—triangles, squares, rectangles, what-have-you—and colors that literally grab the senses, like a shaft of early morning lift. This reveals the other side of the artist, who obviously cannot be completely restrained in his palette as the occasion—rather time—may see fit.

As these recent works attest, Carating has ensured for himself a secure place in the art world. Like the struggle of abstractionism itself, the artist has come full circle even if the circle itself has become smaller with room for only the truly deserving.

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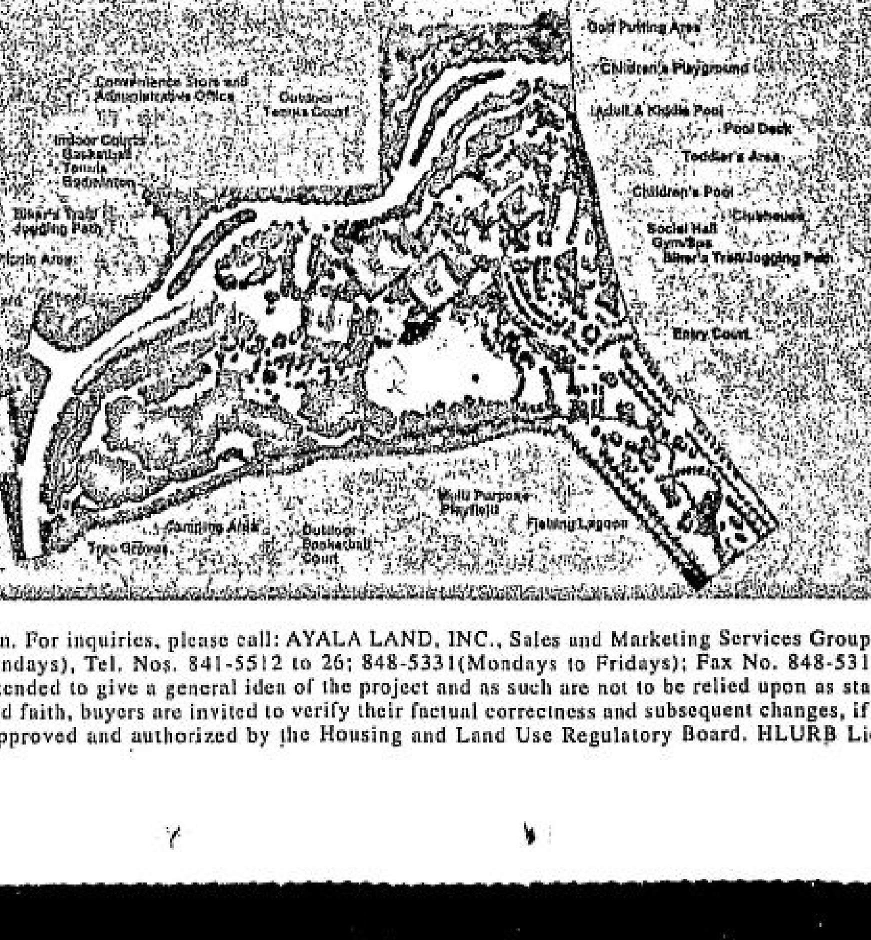
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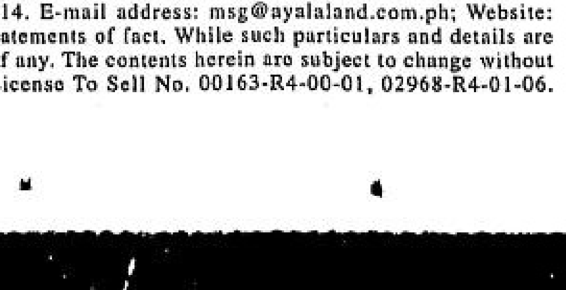
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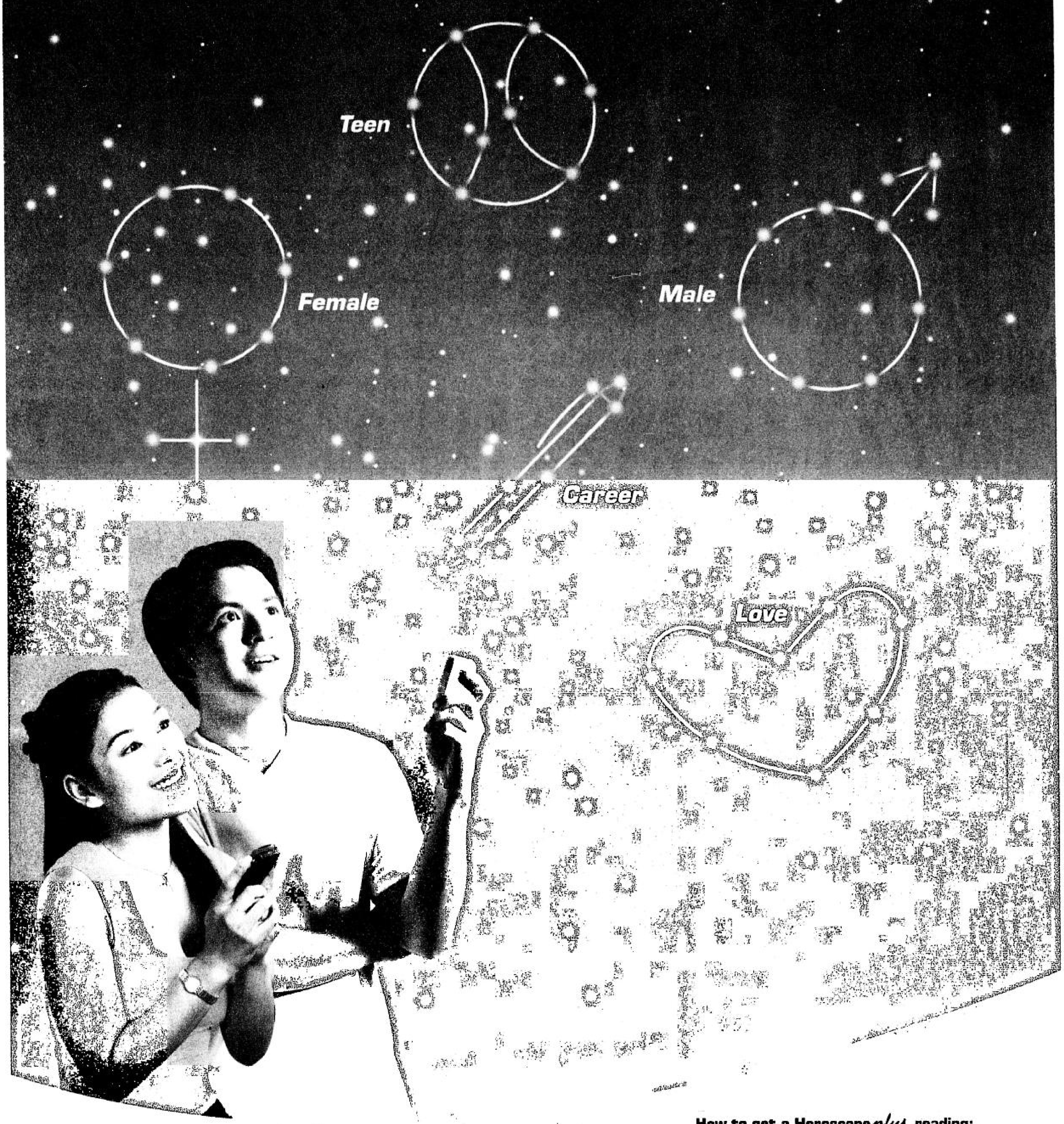
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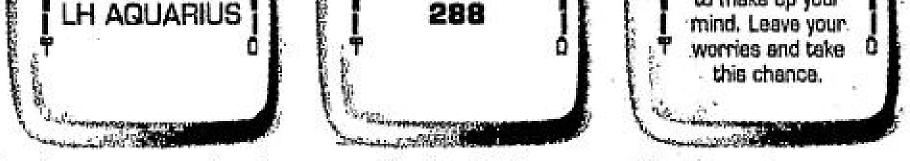
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ROMANIAN diva Nelly Miricioiu with the PPO in her Manila debut in 1980. The conductor was Redentor Romero.

Recalling the great singers who evoked Maria Callas

The Repertory production on the classic diva's stage bio summons memories of Nelly Miricioiu and Tiziana Fabriccini

By Pablo A. Tariman

I'VE seen Repertory Philippines' production of Terence McNally's "Master Class" twice and I can't resist recalling my earlier fascination, nay, obsession with the image of Maria Callas, who died in 1977.

Of the foreign singers who sang in Manila from the '80s to the '90s, only three were absolutely astounding—Romanian diva Nelly Miricioiu who sang, twice, at the CCP in 1980 and during her electrifying return engagement at the Manila Metropolitan Theater in 1984; Japanese diva Yoko Watanabe who sang "Butterfly" in 1994; and Tiziana Fabriccini who sang in the controversy-ridden "Traviata" at the Manila Metropolitan Theater in 1995.

All three made it at various points at Milan's La Scala, New York's Metropolitan Opera, London's Covent Garden, and the great thing is that I interviewed all of them and became their friend years after their Manila debuts.

In the early '90s, Fabriccini was the acclaimed Violetta at the La Scala and she landed on the Time magazine cover as another candidate for successor of Callas. When I heard her at the Metropolitan Theater in 1995, she not only sounded like Callas;

RECALLING/ p.E4

Heny Sison

SCHEDULE OF CLASSES

July 2 (Mon) 9:00-4:00. P1,200 BAKING I by: Heny Sison, * Super Moist Chocolate Cake with Mocha Filling and Fudge Icing, Crispy Sylvana, Cream Puff, Lemon Pie, Butterscotch Bars & Sables

July 3 (Tue) 9:00-4:00. P1,500 BASIC BREAD BAKING WORKSHOP I by: Heny Sison, * Learn a variety of breads using sweet dough such as: Pan de Sal, Cinnamon Roll, Adobo Roll, Cheese Roll & Dinner Roll

July 4 (Wed) 9:00-12:00. P1,200 QUICK & EASY ITALIAN DESSERTS by: Jill Sandique, Chef/Food Consultant & Food Stylist, Blue Ribbon graduate of Peter Kump's New York Cooking School. * Fragole all'Aceto Balsamico, Chocolate Semifreddo, Zabaglione Classico, Baci alle Fragole, Torta Caprese, Cassata Casalinga plus bonus recipes.

July 4 (Wed) 1:30-5:00. P1,500 GOURMET BURGERS by: Alleen Anastacio, owner of C'est Si Bon and Goodies & Sweet, graduate of culinary at the California Culinary Academy * Beef Burgers: Italian Style, Greek Style, Turkey, Healthy Veggie, Southwestern Chicken, Fish Burgers and BBQ Pork

July 5 (Thur) 9:00-12:00. P1,200 HOW TO MAKE A PERFECT QUICHE by: Jill Sandique, * Quiche Lorraine, Quiche au Fromage, Quiche au Roquefort, Quiche aux Fruits de Mer and Quiche aux Oignons

July 5, (Thur) 1:30-5:00. P1,500 A TASTE OF THAI by: Alleen Anastacio * Crispy Catfish, Salad with Mango, Chicken Pandan, Fish Fillet with Chili Garlic Sauce, Phad Thai, Tom Yam Gung & Thai Halo-Halo

July 6 (Fri) 9:30-4:00. P1,200 DESSERTS MADE EASY by: Jill Sandique * Frozen Coffee Cream Roll, Chocolate Bavarian, Snow Mousse, Floating Island, Mango Ice Box Cake and Butterscotch Banana Cream Pie

July 7. (Sat) 9:00-12:30 P1,200 BASIC CAKES & ICINGS FOR BEGINNERS by: Heny Sison *Butter Cake with Butter Icing, Moist Chocolate Cake with Fudge Frosting, Mocha Cake with No-Melt Butter Icing, Lemon Chiffon Cake with Boiled Icing and Sponge Cake with Whipped Cream Icing

July 7 (Sat) 1:30-5.00. P1,200 BROWNIES & BARS by: Heny Sison, * Chewy Moist Brownies, Carrot Cake Bars with Cream Cheese Icing, Lemon Cheesecake Bars, Brownies with Caramel Center and Butterscotch Bars

July 9 (Mon) 9.00-4.00, P1,200 BAKING II by: Heny Sison, * Ensaymada, Ube-Butter Cake, Sour Cream Pound Cake, Walnut Pie, Cheesecake Tart and Crema de Fruta

July 10, (Thur) 9:00-4:00.P1,500 PARADE OF PIES, TARTS & CHEESECAKES by: Heny Sison* French Apple Pie with Streusel Topping with Creme Anglaise Sauce, Turtle Pie, Banana Cream Pie with Caramel Topping, Mango Tart, Peach Walnut Pie, Blueberry Cheesecake and White Chocolate Cheesecake

July 11, (Wed) 9:00-12:30.P1,500 CAJUN COOKING II by: Jill Sandique * Shrimp Creole, Gumbo, Seafood Etoufee, Bourbon Chicken, Mufuletta Sandwich and Bread Pudding

July 11-13, (Wed) 1st day 2:00-4:30 (Thur-Fri) 2nd - 3rd day 9:00-4:00. P10,000 FOOD STYLING WORKSHOP Instructors: Jill Sandique & Tom Roa, founding photographer of Food Magazine, owner of Linea Vida Photography & Digital Imaging Studio & photography consultant, TEAM EXPO * Learn the concept and practical techniques to artistically present food in the camera. The emphasis will be on creating images w/c will appeal to the senses. Specific food styling techniques will be covered including ice cream & other problem food. Professional tips will include selecting, caring for ingredients and reviving food for the camera. Full participation.

July 14, (Sat) 9:30-1:00.P1,200 ELEGANT DESSERTS FOR EASY ENTERTAINING by: Jill Sandique * English Trifle, Tiramisu, Coeur a la Creme, Panna Cotta, Profiteroles and Mount Vesuvius

July 16-20 / 23-27 (Mon-Fri) 9:00-4:00, P8,000 MASTER IN CAKE DECORATION / BASIC by: Heny Sison * A two-week practical basic cake decorating designed for shop owner, teacher, baker, chef and enthusiast. Includes fancy borders, over 20 icing flowers, color flow, method of printing and script, sugar molding, flower bunching, figure piping, decorated cookies, birthday & wedding cake assembly. Full participation.

July 21 (Sat) 9:00-4:00. P1,200 CHOCOLATE CAKE TREASURES by: Heny Sison, * Decadent Chocolate Cake with Caramel Sauce and Fudge Frosting, Chocolate Tiramisu, Mouth Watering Fan Torte, Cassata and Hazelnut Torte

July 28 (Sat) 9:30-4:00. P1,200 CAKE ART SPECIALTIES III by: Jill Sandique * Concorde Cake, White Chocolate Mousse, Sour Cream Streusel Coffee Cake, Chocoholic's Delight, Fruit Tarts, Cocoa and Lemon Biscuits

July 30 (Mon) 9:00-12:30. P1,200 POUND CAKES by: Heny Sison * Buttermilk Lemon Pound Cake, Orange Poppy Seed Pound Cake, Chocolate Buttermilk Pound Cake, Easy Pound Cake & Honey Spice Pound Cake

July 30 (Mon) 1:30-5:00. P1,200 SPECIAL COURSE ON COOKIES by: Heny Sison * Chocolate Chip Cookies, Jam Thumbprint Cookies, Peanut Butter Cookies, Lemon Bars, Chocolate Cups, Oatmeal & Chocolate Crinkles

July 31 (Tue) 9:30-4:00. P2,000 BASIC FLOWER ARRANGEMENTS by: Glenn Remorca, floral designer * Learn the theories, styles, trends, techniques, sourcing, flower care and maintenance, basic form, arrangements and flowers for wedding. Lecture, demonstration and hands-on production. Bring a pair of scissors.

Aug 1 (Wed) 9:00-4:00. P1,500 CHOCOLATE ARTISTRY by: Heny Sison, * Professional techniques for creating fabulous candies from molded treats to truffles. Learn how to temper, flavor and color chocolates. Learn how to make chocolate lollipops, 3-D hollow molded chocolates, chocolate house and hand molded rose made out of chocolate icing. Packaging ideas will be shown in the class.

Aug 2-3. (Thur-Fri) 9:00-4:00 P3,000 THE ART OF PLATED DESSERTS: A WORKSHOP (Demo-Participation) by: Jill Sandique * Provide the perfect ending to your guests dining experience with beautifully plated desserts. Learn production and presentation techniques which emphasize flavor, texture and color. Plate compositions include The Skycraper, Napoleon of Lemon Verbena Creme Brulee, Autumn Fantasy, Frozen Fruit Parfait and more!

Aug 4 (Sat) 9:30-1:30. P1,500 SOFT PRETZEL WORKSHOP by: Heny Sison, * Learn how to make hand rolled soft pretzels with a variety of toppings & dippings. Cinnamon Sugar, Whole Wheat Soft Pretzels, Poppy Seed, Coarse Salt and Sesame Seeds and more! Match them with cream cheese, caramel & soft cheese dippings.

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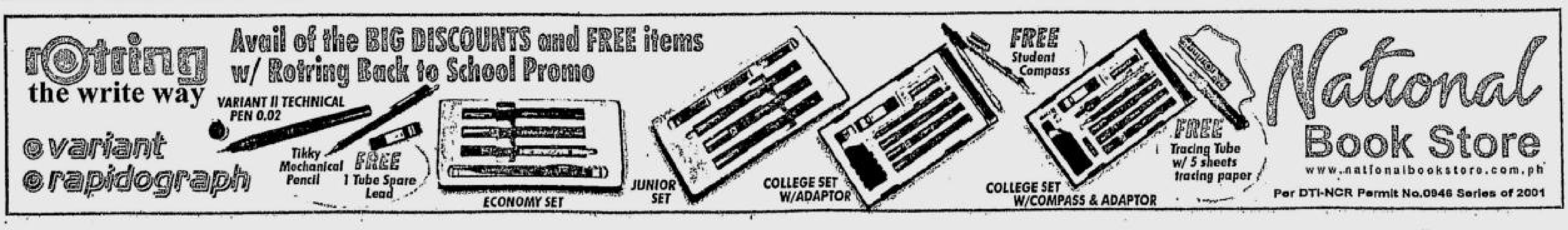

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Father Peyton is declared 'servant of God' and Father Reuter is Golden Jubilee awardee

THE LATE Fr. Patrick Peyton

PURELY PERSONAL

Josephine Darang

AFTER FIVE years since the cause of beatification of Fr. Patrick Peyton, founder of the Family Rosary Crusade worldwide, has been presented to the Vatican Congregation for the Causes of Saints, he has been declared "servant of God," the first step in beatification. This was announced to the gathering of Marian devotees at the Villa San Miguel on June 14 by Fr. Arthur Kolgan, provincial superior of the Holy Cross Fathers.

The occasion was the inauguration of the Cardinal Sin Professorial Chair on Marian Studies for the Loyola School of Theology and the awarding of the Golden Jubilee plaque to Fr. James B. Reuter for his "inspired and inspiring advocacy for family solidarity through the Family Rosary Crusade" for the past 50 years. Imelda Cojuangco presented the award.

First Rosary rally

Father Peyton came to the Philippines for the first time on Dec. 15, 1951. Those who met him at the airport were show-biz celebrities like Tita Duran and Pancho Magalona, together with lawyer Joe Meily who was a radio host at that time. Back in the United States, Father Peyton had already successfully put up the Family Rosary Theater where Hollywood personalities were acting out in his plays.

The following day, the first Rosary rally was held at the UST Campus. From then on, the "family who prays together stays together" became a motto for all families to live by.

At that time, the feast of the Immaculate Conception was celebrated on Dec. 7, 1959. There were one million people gathered at the Luneta to honor Mary under the title Our Lady of Fatima.

Marian devotees

Father Peyton, Father Reuter and Cardinal Sin are Marian devotees. When he was still a young boy suffering from severe asthma, Cardinal Sin promised the Virgin that he would serve her as a priest if she healed him. When Father Peyton himself got sick, he asked the Blessed Virgin for his recovery, promising that he would serve her for the rest of his life.

Father Reuter got involved with the work of Father Peyton when the good priest phoned him from Los Angeles in the summer of 1947 at Fordham University where he was studying at the radio school.

Father Peyton asked Father Reuter if he could write a radio play. The latter sent him the radio drama called "Stolen Symphony." Father Peyton got Robert Ryan and Joan Lorring to portray the lead roles.

It won the Ohio State Award as the best religious radio drama in the US in 1947. The next time it played, Richard Widmark was asked to act in it.

Family Theater

When Father Reuter returned to Manila in 1948, he set up the Family Theater on radio using Father Peyton's plays, but featured Filipino actors such as Mitos Sison, Celia Diaz Laurel, Sixto Roxas III, Vic Silayan, Vic Diaz and Daisy Hontiveros Avellana. These were done live over dzAQ.

When Geny Lopez bought dzAQ-TV in 1952, the station transferred to Dewey Boulevard where some plays were aired including the play "What Every Woman Knows" with Jaime Zobel de Ayala as one of the actors.

We are able to look back at those years from the article Father Reuter wrote for the Family Rosary Crusade Foundation's souvenir program.

The Family Rosary Crusade is celebrating its Golden Jubilee of prayer and goodness. Those who pray to Father Peyton for intercession and are answered can write FRC Foundation at Pius XII Catholic Center, United Nations Avenue, Paco, Manila.

Our Lady of La Leche

THE REPLICA image of Our Lady of La Leche is now enthroned at the Harrison Plaza chapel. My friend Rikki Jimenez and I are devotees. The image was first enthroned at Our Lady of Fatima Church in Mariveles, Mandaluyong City.

Our Lady of La Leche is shown breastfeeding the Baby Jesus. She is invoked by pregnant women for safe conception and delivery. She is also known as Nuestra Señora de Buen Parto.

The movement to propagate her devotion has been given support by Belen Ticzon Martel who's responsible for the image's enthronement at the HP Chapel where people go for Masses and novenas. Her cousin Baby Ticzon Gonzales continues the devotion of the family, which began with an uncle who owned an old image of the Virgin.

The devotion began in the Middle Ages when the Crusaders brought the image to Spain. However, the original statue was burned during the Spanish Civil War. A replica can be, found at the Mission de Nombre de Dios in St. Augustine town in Florida where the first Marian shrine in the USA is located.

FR. James Reuter (with Imelda Cojuangco)

Our Lady of Medjugorje's 20th year

DEVOTEES of Our Lady of Medjugorje are celebrating the 20th anniversary on June 25 of her apparitions. The nine-day novena has been sent to devotees from Yugoslavia through the Internet. Access the Medjugorje website at http://www.medjugorje.org or e-mail medjugorje-english@nibcomp.com.

Thanks to Robert Puckett who shared with us what he got from the Internet. We were able to pray the novena. But you can still get the prayer until June 25 by accessing the Medjugorje website.

The main theme of Our Lady's messages is the call to peace and reconciliation, but we can only obtain them through prayer. The best gift that we can give our Lady is to live by her messages.

Sto. Niño coffee-table book

THE CONGREGACION del Santissimo Nombre del Niño Jesus with Ben Farrales as founding chair has come out with a coffee-table book entitled "Sto. Nino: The Holy Child Devotion in the Philippines."

Written by Abe Florendo and Des Bautista with support from writers Dulce Festin Baybay and this writer, the book will be launched in the afternoon of June 29 at the Metropolitan Museum.

For inquiries, please call 525-3421 or the Congregacion secretariat at 525-9126 (Pius Center). This is a "must" read.

'Worship and Weave' book

A SPECIAL book on liturgical vestments is being distributed by the Monastery of the Transfiguration in Malaybalay, Bukidnon. Written by Dom Martin de Jesus Gomez, OSB, the book features liturgical vestments using tribal weave and designed by Dom Martin himself. Dioceses and parishes should get this book just to find out how they can have them made. To inquire, please call Pia or Cecille at the Filipino Heritage Museum, tel. 892-1801.

Our Lady of Piat fiesta

DEVOTEES of Our Lady of Piat in Metro Manila will celebrate her feast day on July 7 at 7 a.m. at the Sto. Domingo Church. Those in Piat will hold a fiesta Mass on July 2 at 5 p.m.

Sto. Niño de Tacloban

THE MIRACULOUS Sto. Niño de Tacloban will mark his feast day on June 30. Stories about His miracles are handed down from generation to generation in Tacloban. Happy feast day, Sto. Niño!

Soledad image at Holiday Inn

THE REPLICA image of Our Lady of Soledad de Porta Vaga is presently enthroned at the Holiday Inn Chapel for 12:15 p.m. Masses until June 30. Her enthronement is the highlight of the ongoing La Comida de Cavite festival at the Café Coquilla.

Blessed Virgin's 'apparition'

ACCORDING to the members of Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament religious group, the Blessed Virgin is expected to appear on June 29 at 3 p.m. at the convent in Ciudad Real, Gen. Luna Street, Block 15, Lot 12, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan.

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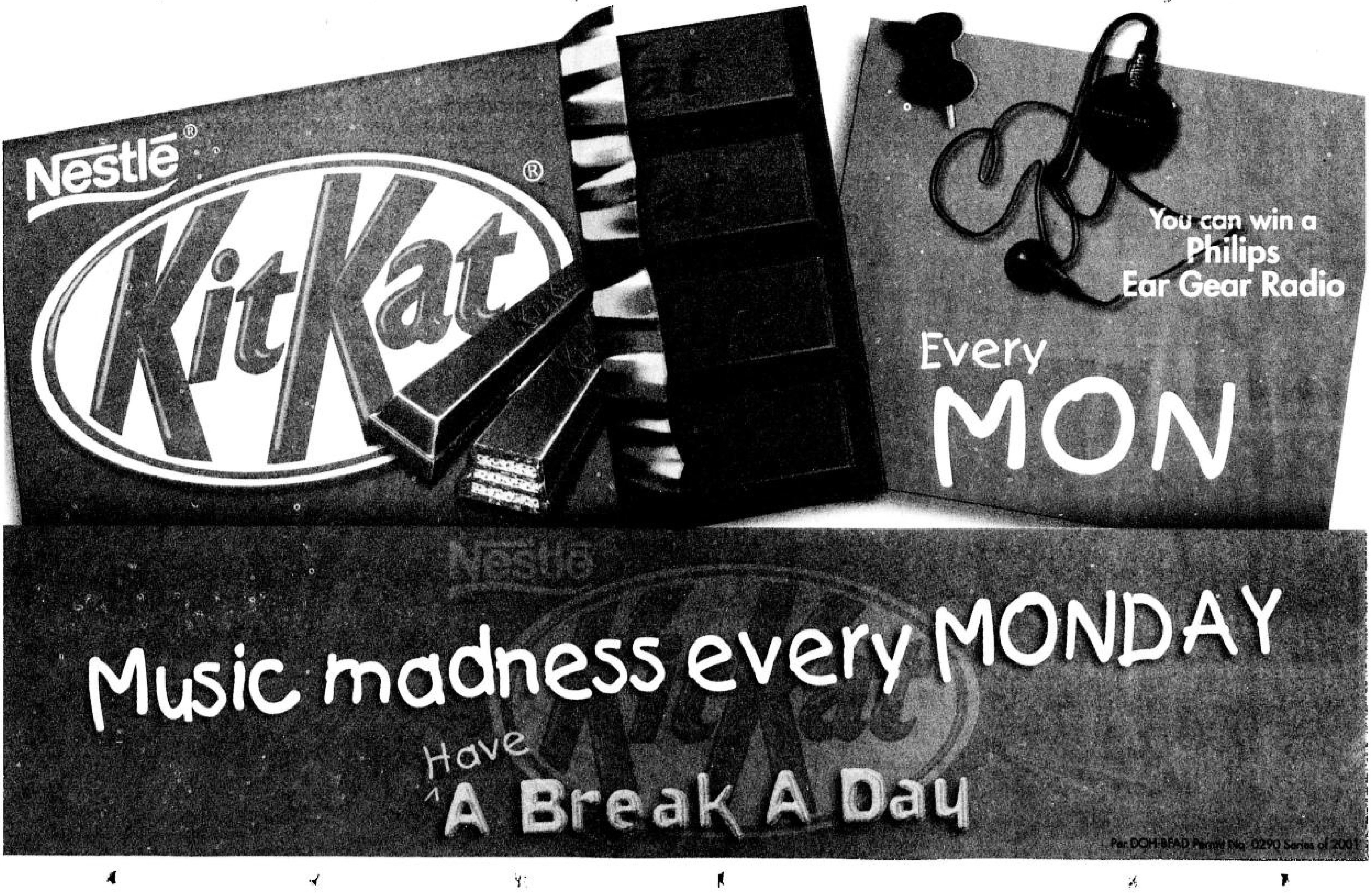
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Canada's Royal Winnipeg Ballet jolts Manila

By Marge C. Enriquez

REVIEW

WHO says the audience for dance is dwindling at the Cultural Center of the Philippines?

People will go out of their way to watch a program that not only offers brilliant dancing but substantial repertoire.

The Royal Winnipeg Ballet of Canada blitzed through Manila last week. The program featured a narrative pas de deux and three ballets that juxtaposed the familiar classical vocabulary with jazz and energies, taken from modern dance. There were two 15-minute intermissions that were too tedious for the audience. But the audience understood that the dancers needed time to change their costumes.

CANADA'S national treasure Evelyn Hart with the Royal Winnipeg Ballet

Best ballerina

Filipinos rarely get a chance to see a live performance of a George Balanchine ballet. For the opening number, we were treated to the 50-year-old neoclassic "Concerto Barocco." We got to appreciate Balanchine's masterful interpretation of dance to Bach's Concerto in D Minor for Two Violins wherein the master fused classicism with modern elements.

The first movement introduced eight girls dancing in groups and duets with syncopated accents, typical of Balanchine's style. They performed with razor-sharp adroitness in the rhythmic attack while maintaining the fluidity of their upper body. As the music focused on two violins, Evelyn Hart, Canada's national treasure, and Kerrie Souster made their sprightly entrance.

We couldn't take our eyes off Hart, who is the most senior member of the company. Other ballerinas in their 40s would probably look too mature amid younger dancers. Hart exuded a magnetic presence. Her balances in an off-center arabesque were held with great aplomb. In this Balanchine work where the technique is off the hip rather than on the leg and the dancer must evoke movement not rigidity, Hart was jazzy and moved with feline quality.

In the second movement, her partner Johnny Cheng lifted and turned Hart with great delicacy as the ensemble did bends and wove her in a bridge formed by the group. Although the pas de deux was as delicate as the music, the partnering was strong yet gentle. The overhead lifts were as climactic as the music. The movement ended with Cheng coasting his partner low across the stage, each time Hart effortlessly arising in an open pose that resonated with the intensity essential to the lyricism of this section.

The energy of the company built up to a climax in the allegro ending. The dancers marked the rhythmic movement with bouncy jumps, crisp weavings of the feet, and flexing of the wrists—a complete opposite of the first movement, which was very grounded.

Hart's musicality brought life to every pose and breath to every gesture in Kenneth Macmillan's pas

CANADA'S/ p.E4

FEU alumni website, assembly

THE FAR Eastern University Alumni Foundation is announcing that the FEU Alumni Registry is now online with access at www.feaulumni.org.

The Alumni Foundation Committee on Ways and Means is also building the Alumni Data Bank and part of this is the FEU Gems, featuring the distinguished FEU alumni who contributed to the prestige of the university and to nation building. FEU graduates under this category are requested to register and also to recommend co-alumni.

Meanwhile, there will be an alumni assembly on June 30 at 2 p.m. at the FEU Pavilion. FEU graduates are invited to attend.

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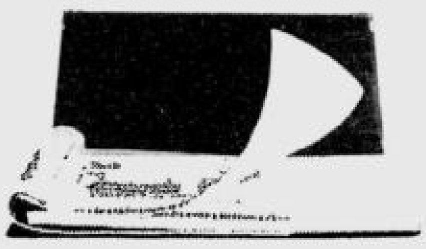

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‘MASTER CLASS’ AND ‘ROMEO AND JULIET’

The drama in music

By Cora Llamas

IT'S tough to touch an icon, especially one as revered and feared as Maria Callas, the Greek soprano legend. Playwright Terence McNally, tried to capture that unique mixture of peerless class, genius and unapologetic egotism in "Master Class."

REVIEWS

The reactions were uneven. The production won the Tony for Best Play in 1997, but music critics and Callas students were not won over. US-based reviewers from theater and opera regarded it as "good, but not great."

Watching its opening, New York Times critic Anthony Tommasini attacked its inaccuracy; the production allegedly portrayed Callas as bitchy, pettily jealous of other talents and insecure in her sunset years. According to Tommasini, the real-life Callas, in fact, encouraged opera students to excel in their craft by singing; by then, the heavenly voice was ravaged by disease, and it took courage and a lot of physical pain for Callas to do so.

Callas taught 12 master classes at the Juilliard School in 1972. For a couple of hours, McNally (1923-1977) used these to highlight the brilliance of the artist, the passion that drove her to succeed, and the incredible tragedy that caused her great vulnerability and loneliness. One of the most eloquent lines in the play is Callas' description of her doomed love affair with the caustic, boorish, if tremendously wealthy, Aristotle Onassis, who didn't give a whit about her art. Giving everything that she had for him was like "a ballerina dancing for a blind man." It soon worsened; Onassis asked her to abort their unborn child, then publicly dumped her for Jacqueline Kennedy.

Repertory Philippines and the Philippine Opera Company's production of "Master Class" allows Filipino viewers a peek into this enigmatic world and, hopefully, the heart and soul that made Callas regarded as "La Divina." The play is more than one-half monologue. Callas (Baby Barredo) struts into center stage, preens and spouts off her philosophy on music and art, and intimidates the few students who work up their courage to sing for her. The real reward, though, is in seeing the woman behind the image as the melodies soar; the students' singing become the catalyst by which Callas reviews the agonies and ecstasies in her life.

We also see the human side of the goddess: the struggling artist, the heartbroken lover, the dedicated mentor who wants her students to be as consumed as her with art.

In the Rep-POC production, the opera numbers are the centerpiece. As the bumbling students of Callas, professional opera singers Nolyn Cabahug, Jay V. Glorioso and Karla G. Gutierrez elevate the events onstage to a higher realm. You don't need to be an opera buff to appreciate the awe and beauty of the classics. Taking their cue, scenic designer Mio Infante and lighting designer Gerry Fernandez transpose the walls of the opera into simple university halls. All these transport the audience to the heavenly court where La Divina once ruled. They make even more exquisite Callas' reminiscing.

While Cabahug's Anthony is properly stiff and Gutierrez's Sophie is wide-eyed and innocent, Glorioso's performance as the initially nervous, then bitterly resentful Sharon deserves special mention. Watching her grope almost idiotically with Lady Macbeth's aria, in a faded violet gown that looks like a discard from a B horror movie, it's hard to believe that Glorioso is an accomplished opera singer and theater performer. You have to be *that* good to act that bad, and pull it off convincingly.

Barredo's Callas is more of a mentor than a diva. She is uncompromising in her standards, brutally candid in her comments, yet betrays her concern for these would-be singers. In fact, her Callas shows a warmer heart than what the real-life soprano's critics contend. Barredo also plays well the part of the forsaken woman. We would have wanted, though, to see more of the enigmatic distance, the strong but fragile crystal class act that made Callas an alluring mystery, even now 25 years after her passing.

‘Romeo and Juliet’

SHAKESPEARE'S widely read, often mounted tale of star-crossed lovers has been done so many times that a director restaging it is hard-pressed to come up with something new. Jonas Sebastian's answer in the Bankard production of "Romeo and Juliet" is to set parts of it in music; the result is an engaging, funny, yet moving "little opera" (for lack of a better phrase).

The opening lines of the chorus describing Verona and its rival families are sung by the entire cast, clothed in early 18th-century French costumes onstage. Instead of just letting the players mouth the Bard's eloquent lines, musical accompanist Jeremiah Calisang plays Tchaikovsky and Mozart (among others) on piano as background. The lilting music is more than just a transition device that hurries the pace; it effectively heightens the emotions of the very passionate play. It sets a forbidding tone prior to the intermission when the Prince pronounces Romeo's banishment and heightens the angst during the more weepy parts (Romeo's or Juliet's). When the scene is comic, like Mercutio's teasing of the Nurse, the music lilts and teases along.

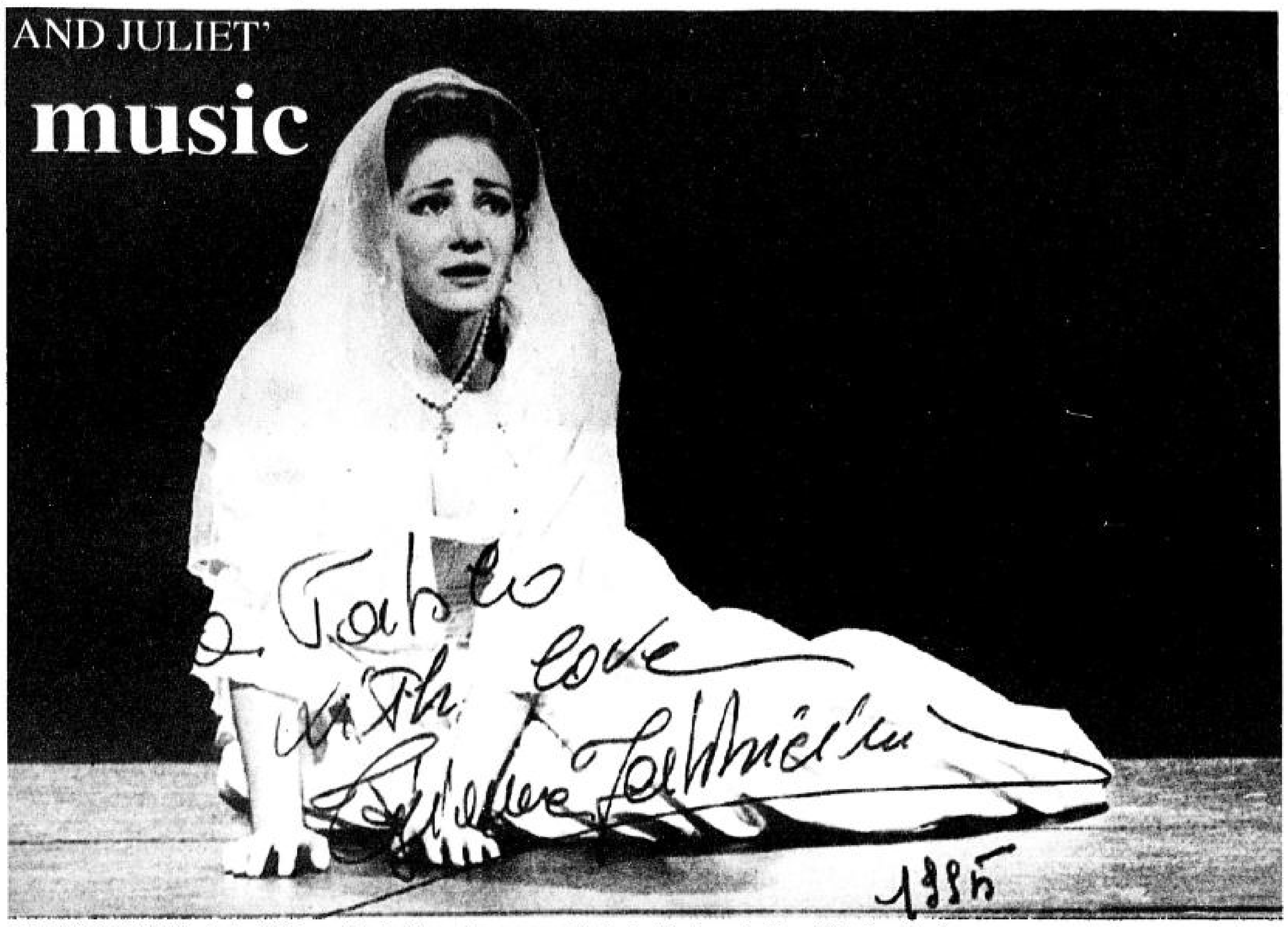
The more intense love passages of Romeo and Juliet are sung in classical music, with original melodies by UP music professor Lester Demetillo. Hard as it is to believe, the romance in the balcony scene, the marriage, and the morning after does get more romantic.

It helps that the two leads know what they're doing. Andrew Vergara uses his considerable theater experience, good looks, and small stature to make his Romeo a devoted, if impulsive noble youth. The real discovery, though, is Arlynne Lupas as Juliet. The opera-trained UP College of Music piano/voice teacher assumes her character with an innocence and regality that I haven't seen in years. She may be twentysomething in real life, but the naivete and still-untouched dawning sexuality of a cultured, classy teenager (Juliet was 14) are there.

The aristocratic costumes underscore that this is a period piece. And the choreographed sword fight between the steaming Tybalt (Charlton Villanueva) and the smaller, but more agile Mercutio (a poker-faced Jonic Magno) is a standout.

The only flaws during the premiere were the mikes, presumably stuck too close to the costumes, that conked out or fizzled when the characters came close to each other. Another was Ogie Juliano's cameo scene as one of the Verona ladies in the ball. Maybe Sebastian wanted to stretch the comic scene a bit, but the guffawing audience lingered on this oddity, veering their attention away from the romantic interplay sparking between Romeo and Juliet.

Repertory Philippines' production of "Master Class" will play at the Carlos P. Romulo Theater, RCBC Plaza, until July 8. Call 633-4821.



AN AUTOGRAPHED photo of Tiziana Fabriccini as she appeared in the La Scala production of "La Traviata."

CECILE Licad (with Gretchen Cojuangco)

BABY Barredo (left) plays Callas in Repertory Philippines' "Master Class."

Recalling the great singers . . .

(From page E1)

she looked like Callas, hair, face and all. I interviewed her for PDI, stayed by her side while she bore her ordeal with her local impresario who abandoned her. When Fabriccini walked out after a falling out with her impresario, an American diva took over and I thought she could do nothing to match my Italian Violetta.

Meanwhile, I was a witness to this Italian "Callas" victimized by a Manila producer who mistakenly thought he could afford $10,000 per performance. "This Manila 'Traviata' is a total ordeal," Fabriccini told me as her appearance on the Met stage was trailed by a school of mosquitoes in the long-abandoned theater near the Mehan Gardens. She invited me to her forthcoming Tokyo "Traviata" and voila! it was a La Scala production (costumes, singers, sets and musicians) transported all the way to Tokyo's NHK Theater.

Extraordinary

In the '80s, Miricioiu (a grand prizewinner of the Maria Callas International Voice Competition in Athens, Greece) became the definitive Violetta ("Traviata") and sang the part to great acclaim with Alfredo Kraus, Jose Carreras and other equally distinguished Alfredos. Singing "Lucia di Lammermoor" in La Scala, Miricioiu was compared by critics to the legend that was Callas. Another music critic from Milan's Corriere de la Serna noted that there was 10 percent of Callas in her voice. "In some passages, especially in the Mad Scene," the critic continued, "it was like listening to Callas. Miricioiu is an extraordinary dramatic character."

In Sydney Opera, where she sang 12 performances of "Traviata," Miricioiu was also compared to Callas. Australian critic Anthony Clark was telling an American seatmate who had seen Callas in Paris that Miricioiu was being compared to Callas and after her grand aria, "Ah fors' e lui," the American concluded, "They are right about her as comparable to Callas."

Singing "Manon Lescaut" in Covent Garden, the British press euphoric and The Guardian in particular pointed out that the diva sang "with rich and firm tone, character-full with Callas-like tones of tanginess..."

When Miricioiu made her Manila debut in 1980 and got to sing in Malacañang, Ms Marcos declared, "You act like Callas but you sing better than her."

But was it right to build a singing career in the shadow of a legend like Callas?

After her sensational "Traviata" at the Washington Opera, Miricioiu talked openly about her ups and downs as a soprano and the disaster of living up to the Callas label.

She confided to Washington Post music writer Joseph McLellan: "Having Maria Callas before your eyes and seeing her do everything in the repertoire, your temptation is to do exactly the same. The voice was there to do I everything I wanted. I could do 'Tosca' and 'Lucia.' But then, in time, I started to have problems. The last time I did Tosca, it took me a year to get back my top notes. It brought my voice completely down. I could hardly get a top C. That was one of my mistakes—but we all do that; we all want to be a picture of somebody else."

I never got to hear Callas but I was close to the divas who had been compared to her.

You better watch Rep's "Master Class" now. It is the least you can do to catch up with a glimpse (at least in theater form) of the sinking legend that was Maria Callas. Baby Barredo as Callas is a big thrill.

Here and there

CECILE Licad was again the toast of Seattle music lovers as she won an ovation for Haydn's D Major concerto and the seldom-heard Liszt "Malediction."

Wrote a Seattle Times music critic: "This work ('Malediction') probably hasn't had a local performance since Licad played it in Seattle six years ago and it's hard to think why Licad made a compelling case for the Liszt, attacking the keyboard with the huge sonority that always startles first-time listeners who are misled by how small and slender she looks. Licad didn't just whomp the keys in the big-moment attacks and arpeggios; she also played with crystalline delicacy, giving some of the sequenced almost dream-like and nostalgic air. It was a performance to thrill and the audience rose for warm enough ovation to prompt an encore."

Now, what do you think Licad has in common with Yo Yo Ma, Alicia de Larrocha, Gidon Kremer and Leon Fleisher? Well, the Filipino pianist will join the roster of distinguished soloists of the Asian Youth Orchestra when it performs at the CCP on Aug. 17 under the baton of Romanian conductor Sergiu Comissiona. Mendelssohn's E Minor Violin Concerto will be heard for the third time this year (the first was Chinese violinist Jue Jao performing it with the Peace Philharmonic last January, the second was Alexander Tomescu playing it with the National Philharmonic Society players last March) with Leila Josefowiccz as soloist on Aug. 18. The Filipinos in the orchestra are Antoni Josef Inacay (cello), Ariston Payte (double bass), Lorenzo Raval (violin), Jayson Rivera (clarinetist) and Saturnino Tiamzon III (percussion). For tickets, call 832-3878.

* * *

Metro Manila's most-kept secret is the season opening of the San Miguel Philharmonic, which will open July 12 at the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel Ballroom. This is the orchestra that advertised auditions for new instrumentalists and caused quite a polarization in the country's surviving orchestra. Main concert fare is "Carmina Burana" (played by PPO last year) along with a Beethoven symphony under the baton of Julian Quirit.

* * *

Mariel Ilusorio takes the place of Ariel Dechosa in the opening of the CCP Filipino Artists series, which will feature a joint concert of cellist Willie Pasamba, baritone Jonathan Zaens and flutist Antonio Maigue on July 31. The most exciting program involves Zaens who figures in Monteclair's Cantata for Bass and a Rossini aria. Maigue, Pasamba and Ilusorio will play Martinu's Trio for Flute, Cello and Piano. It will end with a Pagaduan-arranged medley of Filipino folksongs. This program will also be heard in outreach concerts in Bukidnon (Aug. 2), Cagayan de Oro (Aug. 4 and 5), Capiz (Aug. 8), Iloilo (Aug. 10), Bacolod (Aug. 11), Cebu under the auspices of the Cebu Arts Council (Aug. 14) and Naga City (Aug. 17).

* * *

Over in Cebu and Dumaguete, the most awaited concert is the second season offering of the Peace Philharmonic featuring Elgar's cello concerto with Renato Lucas as soloist under the baton of British conductor Adrian Brown. The Cebu concert is on Aug. 31 at the Cebu Plaza grand lobby and Dumaguete concert is on Sept. 1 at the Luce Auditorium of Silliman University. For inquiries, please call 721-7255.

Canada's Royal Winnipeg Ballet jolts Manila

(From page E3)

de deux from "Manon." This pas de deux is as popular as the balcony scene from "Romeo and Juliet" because of the ardor and effortless overhead lifts. As Manon, Hart's dance was imbued with passion that made her love for Des Greux, played by Cheng, the dramatic focus. Articulated movements, molten walks and fluid musical understanding characterized her performance. She exploited the expressive possibilities of the role without going over the top.

Homegrown talent

Aside from works by great masters, the company is also proud of its homegrown talents. Mark Godden's "Miroirs (Mirrors)" was the choreographic highlight of the evening. The piece looked as if he reinvented ballet. Set to Maurice Ravel's haunting piano score, the work was divided into five themes. The overall mood was dark and shadowy. Although the choreographic device of dancers echoing each other's movements and the ballet vocabulary were all too familiar, Godden delighted the audiences by creating unusual shapes with the human bodies and making the movements mirror the music.

The themes of each movement were about man and nature. In "Noctuelles (Night Moths)" dancers curled up and flickered their hands and legs like moths. "Oiseux Tristes (Sorrowful Birds)" wasn't a literal interpretation of two unhappy birds. High-contrast lighting that hid the limbs of the dancers and kept the audience wondering where the maneuvers came from set the mood. In "Une Barque Sur L'Ocean (A Boat on the Ocean)," two couples, with the girls dressed in billowy black dresses to represent sails, evoked mystery and the sadness of a boat traveling on a foggy night. Jesus Corrales' solo "Alborada del Gracioso (Morning Song of the Jester)" contrasted with the sobriety of the other pieces. He played around with the plume pen and executed pirouettes on top of a scroll. The choreographer also highlighted the dancer's sensual qualities. In "La Vallee des Cloches, (The Valley of the Bells)," two tall danseurs swung a tiny ballerina like a bell toll in the tower.

Alienation

The evening ended with an upbeat piece, with Godden's "As Above, So Below," set to the music of John Adams' "Fearful Symmetries" and Beethoven's "Moonlight Sonata." It started with a man attracted to a woman who seemed noncommittal. Eventually the stage was filled with seven couples, who ended up with different partners. There were partnerings to portray sexual tension, betrayal and loneliness. Movements were nuanced and richly ambiguous.

To emphasize alienation in a relationship, Godden showed man and a woman just staring blankly at each other as dancers circled in frenzy around them on the floor. The work was clearly about the universal law that attraction leads to repulsion. Their various moods were framed in ballet steps punctuated by a lot of jazzy Godden's strengths as a choreographer. The logical development of his choreographic ideas and his musicality brought out the best qualities from his dancers. In this thought-provoking piece, he made us look at the reality of relationships as against our fairy-tale expectations of romance.

The RWB has many influences. From the Americans, it has learned stylistic limits. The dancers are trained by the Russian Vaganova method; therefore the works are ballet-based, not modern and dance-theater pieces. European aesthetics is based on the dancer's abilities, in contrast to the American stricture on the lean, almost anorexic, body type. The men are barrel-chested on stage and the women are muscular, except for Hart whose got extremely long and skinny legs. The company is appreciative of mature dancers such as Cheng and Hart. Like many world-class companies, its dancers come from 16 different nations, bringing a wealth of cultural diversity. Even the Filipino audience certainly learned from its example.

8TH ILIGAN WRITERS WORKSHOP

Whodunit in Mindanao

By Romel M. Oribe

WHEN I learned about the 8th Iligan National Writers Workshop (INWW) from an old newspaper used to wrap the instant noodles I bought from a *sari-sari* store, the deadline for the submission of manuscripts was just 12 days away. And to qualify, one had to submit either poems, short stories or a one-act play.

The thought of visiting Iligan for the first time and for free was so overwhelming that I told myself right there and then: I had to be in this workshop!

But how?

For one thing, I couldn't write poetry or a one-act play even if my life depended on it. So it had to be a short story. But just the same, I was unskilled.

Images of Maria Christina Falls, Tinago Falls, the Timoga Spring Pools, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's ancestral home and Chedeng's greaseless peanuts began to dissolve in my mind. There had to be a way!

Looking back, I don't exactly remember how I did it. Already puzzling was the fact that I was able to write my first short story and made it to the deadline. (They said it was adrenaline; I said it was magic). More puzzling still was the fact that I was accepted as one of 14 writing fellows out of the 44 applicants from all over the country. (They said it was good fortune; I said it was divine intervention).

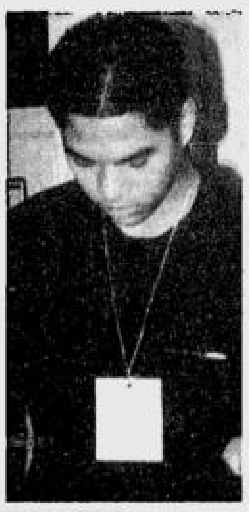
I left for Iligan with the giddy anticipation of a teenager who was on his way to his first date. I didn't know what to expect for all I knew was that I was headed for a beautiful and exciting experience.

When I stepped on Iligan soil at close to midnight on May 29, the city was already asleep. I checked in at the Elena Tower Inn where the other writing fellows were billeted. I washed away the dust from my body made weary by almost a day's cross-regional journey.

The 8th INWW kicked off with the traditional opening program highlighted by a keynote address by Dr. Erlinda Kintanar Alburo, director of the University of San Carlos' (USC) Cebuano Studies Center, a performance by the MSU-Iligan Institute of Technology's (MSU-IIT) Integrated Performing Arts Guild (Ipag) and the offering of gifts and prayers for creative writers in different local languages by the writing fellows.

Soon after, workshop director Christine Godinez-Ortega formally opened the workshop, and, after reading President Macapagal-Arroyo's message which said, in part, that the "literary art is a perfect avenue for the expression of the Filipino's innate creativity and talent... as it is likewise an appropriate medium to bring to light our people's sentiments and aspirations for a better Philippine society," one of the INWW panelists said: "If you have an ego, this forum is not for you."

The tone for the INWW being set, I crossed my fingers.



PRAYERS and an offering from Bro. Eldric Paul Peredo (UST Central Seminary), writing fellow from Vigan, Ilocos Sur

No regrets

Understand that unlike most of the writing fellows, I hadn't attended a writers workshop before. I was completely clueless. Or, to borrow the words of Isagani "Dudz" Amoncio, writing fellow from Gingoog City, "I didn't know what I was getting into," which was not to say, however, that I regretted what I got myself into.

During the workshop sessions, the tables and chairs were arranged in a rectangle. A lead panelist was assigned to facilitate a workshop on a prearranged schedule.

After a fellow's work was read, it was fair game and with all the cell phones in silent mode, the

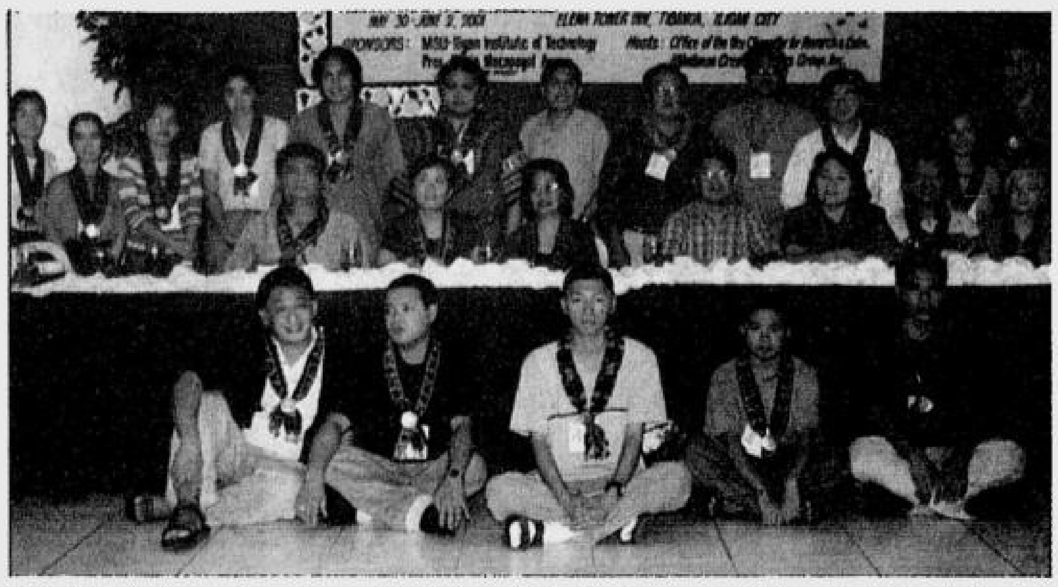
WHODUNIT/ p.E7

WORKSHOP session with panelists Antonio Enriquez, Jaime An Lim, Christine Godinez-Ortega (eighth INWW director), Erlinda Alburo. Standing is Chari Cruz Lucero.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE MSU-IIT OFFICE OF THE VICE CHANCELLOR FOR RESEARCH & EXTENSION

IPAG giving the traditional welcome to the author, Romel Oribe (University of San Carlos) from Surigao del Sur

PANELISTS congratulate writing fellow Cecile Locsin Nava during the closing program and book launching at Iligan's Café Hermoso.



SEATED, first row, from left: writing fellows Allan Bodoy, Isagani Amoncio, Vincent Joseph Sandoval, Vincent Jan Rubio, Eldric Paul Peredo; seated, second row: panelists Leoncio Deriada, Chari Cruz Lucero, keynote speaker Erlinda Kintanar Alburo, MSU-IIT Vice Chancellor for Research & Extension Jamail Kamlian, workshop director Christine Godinez-Ortega, SEA Write awardee Antonio Enriquez, writing fellow Cecile Locsin Nava; standing: writing fellows Cherrie Sing, Yvonne Esperas, Genevieve Aquino, Karen Rivero, Mike Ligalig, Raymund Garlitos, panelists Steve Fernandez, Jaime An Lim, German Gervacio, Anthony Tan, writing fellows Marie Cor Villojon and the author

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11. Tatlong DREAM HOME raffle draws na gaganapin sa 11/F JMT Corporate Condominium Office, ADB Ave, Ortigas Center, Pasig City, sa mga sumusunod na araw:

    August 24, 2001 (12:00 ng tanghali)
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12. Ang WESTERN UNION Dream Home Promotion winner ay kailangang Filipino citizen of legal age.
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16. Ipagbibigay alam sa mga nanalo ang petsa ng awarding ceremony na gaganapin sa lugar ng house and lot na premyo.
17. Ilalabas din ang mga pangalan ng mga DREAM HOME winners sa print ads sa Pilipinas.
18. Ang matatanggap na premyo ng WESTERN UNION DREAM HOME winner ay isang house and lot sa ReginaVille 2000 sa Barangay Inocencio, Trece Martires, Cavite-Floor plan SFW-D (Constructor: BANFF Realty & Development Corporation).
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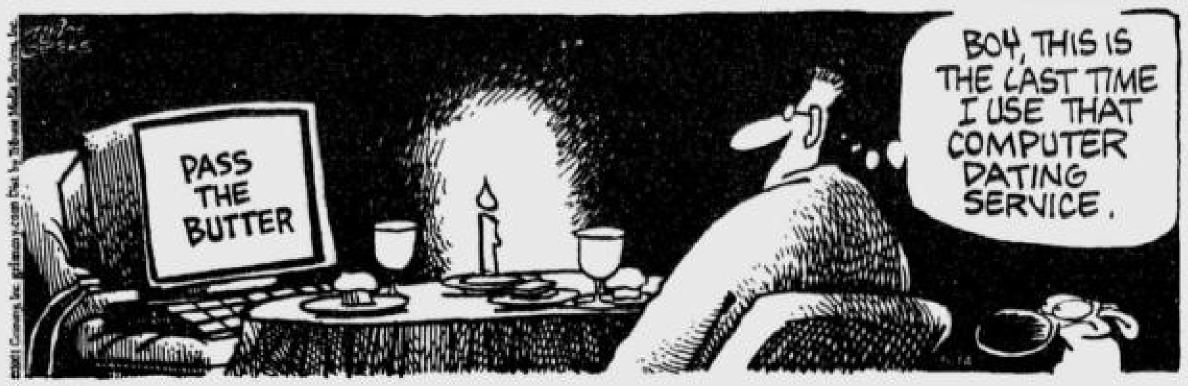
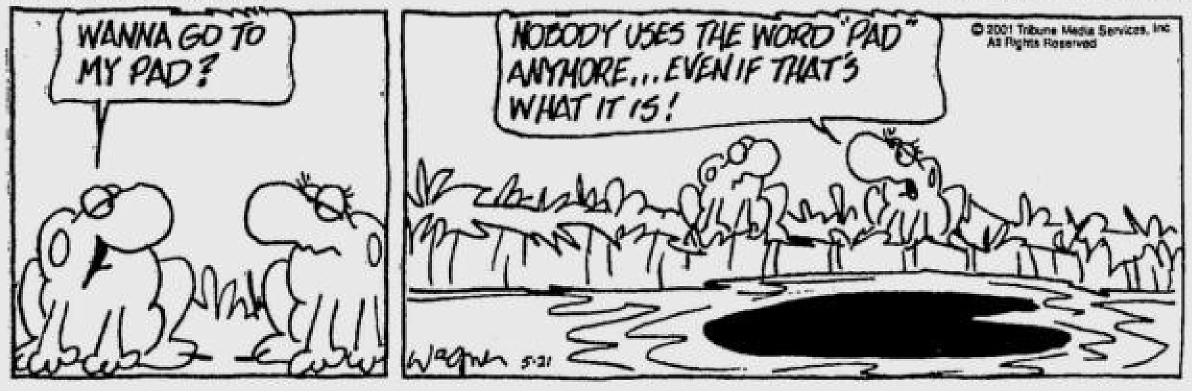
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


PASS THE BUTTER
BOY, THIS IS THE LAST TIME I USE THAT COMPUTER DATING SERVICE.

ANIMAL CRACKER

BY FRED WAGNER


WANNA GO TO MY PAD?
NOBODY USES THE WORD "PAD" ANYMORE... EVEN IF THAT'S WHAT IT IS!
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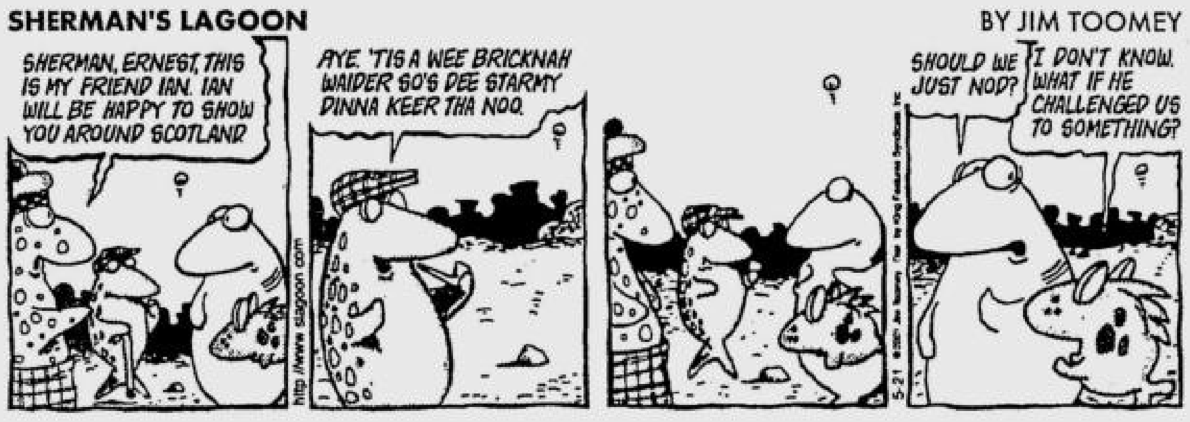
Wagner 5-21

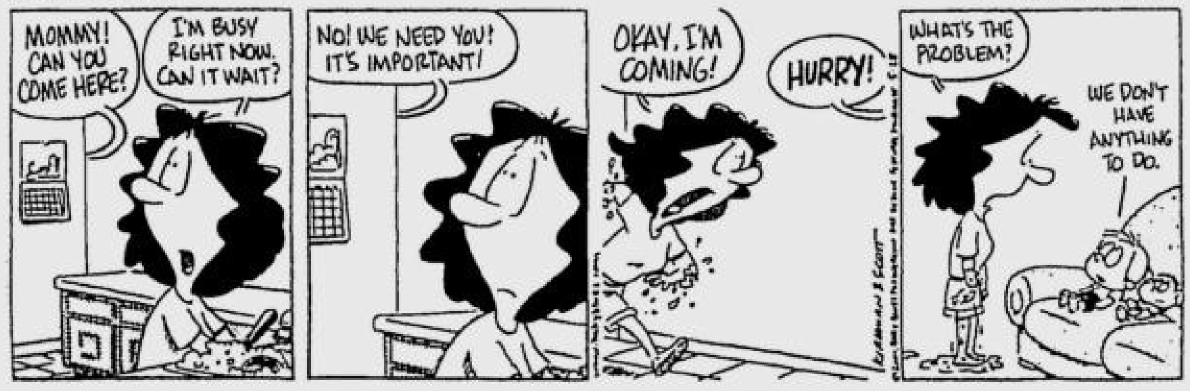
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


SHERMAN, ERNEST, THIS IS MY FRIEND IAN. IAN WILL BE HAPPY TO SHOW YOU AROUND SCOTLAND
AYE. 'TIS A WEE BRICKNAH WAIDER SO'S DEE STARMY DINNA KEER THA NOO.
http://www.slagoon.com
SHOULD WE JUST NOD?
I DON'T KNOW. WHAT IF HE CHALLENGED US TO SOMETHING?
5-21

BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


MOMMY! CAN YOU COME HERE?
I'M BUSY RIGHT NOW. CAN IT WAIT?
NO! WE NEED YOU! IT'S IMPORTANT!
OKAY, I'M COMING!
HURRY!
WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?
WE DON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO DO.

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Carly Simon, June Lockhart, Phyllis George, Sidney Lumet, Johnny Herbert, George Michael

Happy Birthday: It's time for you to move on. You will feel better about yourself if you let go of people and situations that are no longer beneficial and will gain strength from the decisions. It's time for you to look out for yourself. Take action, and you'll get a positive response. Doors will open as long as you let go of the past. Your numbers: 11, 14, 25, 31, 37, 44

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Spend time with someone who has been intriguing you lately. You need to experience new activities and cultures to grow. Don't be reluctant to take a chance or make a change.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Someone you love may be trying to make you feel guilty. You must look out for your own best interests. Don't give in to idle threats, and be aware of empty promises.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Social activities should include family and friends. You can meet interesting new people through the ones you already know. Creative projects will be more fun than you thought.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Don't overspend. You will have an unrealistic view of your financial situation. You need to tighten your belt until you get yourself completely out of the red.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Your emotions will be up and down. Try not to let loved ones play games with your heart. You need to know where you stand, but not at the risk of heartbreak.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Be careful not to let too many people know what your plans are. You need time to yourself to sort through your ideas. Be prepared to face some opposition.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): It's a good idea to mingle with those who can benefit you in some way. Look into courses that will provide added knowledge and expand your peer group. Philosophy will interest you.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Your inability to express emotions will cause some grief with loved ones. You can make profitable purchases if you shop wisely.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Travel opportunities will delight you. Take time to savor different cultures. You need a change to feel alive again. Boredom is your most-dreaded enemy.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Look closely into minor health problems. You may find that your cholesterol or blood pressure is out of control. Don't take chances; get a checkup.

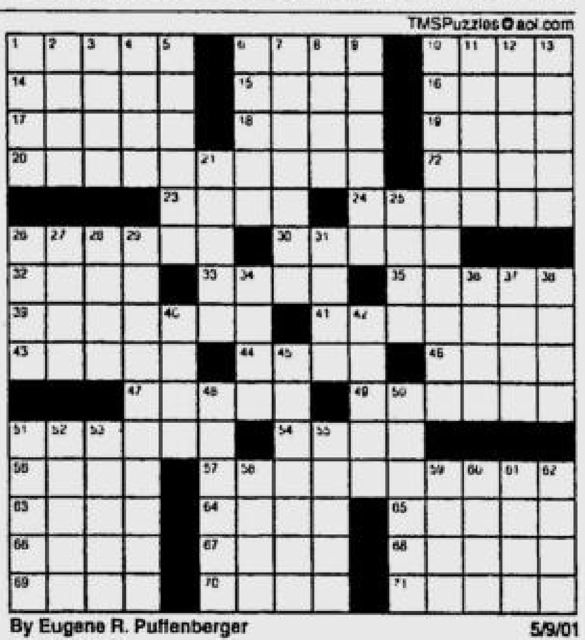
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Your personal relationships may be experiencing difficulty. Don't blame yourself entirely. It takes two to tango. A good heart-to-heart talk is in order.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Don't overspend on luxury items for your home. Lending or borrowing among friends will ruin the connection. Put your time into work-related projects that will help you advance.

Birthday Baby: Your mind is full of great ideas, and you will want to try everything. You will be quick to jump from one thing to another and will experience a lot throughout life.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Eugene R. Puffenberger
Houston, TX

5/9/01

ACROSS
1 Heating apparatus
6 Injure
10 Bard's river
14 Nuclei
15 Opera highlight
16 Mexican bread?
17 Representative
18 Kennel sounds
19 Builder's map
20 Nonsense
22 Appling of baseball
23 Split
24 Swellings
26 Dreaded African fly
30 Some art
32 Continental currency
33 Onionlike plant
35 Renowned
39 Least bright
41 Arm of the sea
43 Support crew
44 Take a break
46 Hombre's home
47 Rubbed out
49 Tarzans
51 Classic Dracula
54 Decline
56 October gem
57 Nonsense
63 Wight or Dogs
64 Guam or Yukon: abbr.
65 Nosy Parker
66 Lincoln's state: abbr.
67 Conceal
68 Neighbor of Maui
69 Length of a visit
70 Sauciness
71 Wed on the wing

DOWN
1 Wound cover
2 Forum wear
3 Pitcher Hershiser
4 Sell
5 Aromatic compounds
6 Composer Franz Joseph
7 Minos' daughter
8 Tears
9 Squashed
10 Nonsense
11 Soft palate
12 Japanese seaport
13 Observes
21 Film spools
25 Adroit
26 Danson and Kennedy
27 Hearts or diamonds
28 Writer Bombeck
29 Nonsense
31 Hawaiian guitars, for short
34 To be, in Toulouse
36 Lady's address
37 Highland tongue
38 Actress Cannon
40 Studio apts.
42 Rise
45 Blake or Ralph
48 Liquor quantities
50 Human beings
51 Cuts of meat
52 Underdog's victory
53 Nero's successor
55 After: Fr.
58 "Star Wars" princess
59 Preacher Roberts
60 Pebbles' pet
61 Bound forward
62 Pennsylvania port

SATURDAY PUZZLE ANSWER

C	O	M	B		S	M	O	G		N	A	S	A	L
O	V	A	L		P	O	K	E		A	L	O	N	E
B	E	L	A		I	R	A	N		S	T	A	N	S
B	R	I	C	K	L	A	Y	E	R	C	A	K	E	S
			K	I	L	L			O	A	R			
P	E	D	R	O	S		S	L	U	R		T	R	Y
A	R	E	A	S		S	H	U	T		S	H	O	O
R	U	B	I	K	S	C	U	B	E	S	T	E	A	K
S	P	U	N		P	A	N	E		A	R	I	S	E
I	T	T		H	I	N	T		C	H	A	R	T	S
			F	A	R			B	A	I	T			
S	Q	U	A	R	E	R	O	O	T	B	E	E	R	S
A	U	G	U	R		A	L	I	T		G	L	E	E
F	O	L	L	Y		M	I	L	L		I	S	L	E
E	D	I	T	S		P	O	S	E		C	A	Y	S

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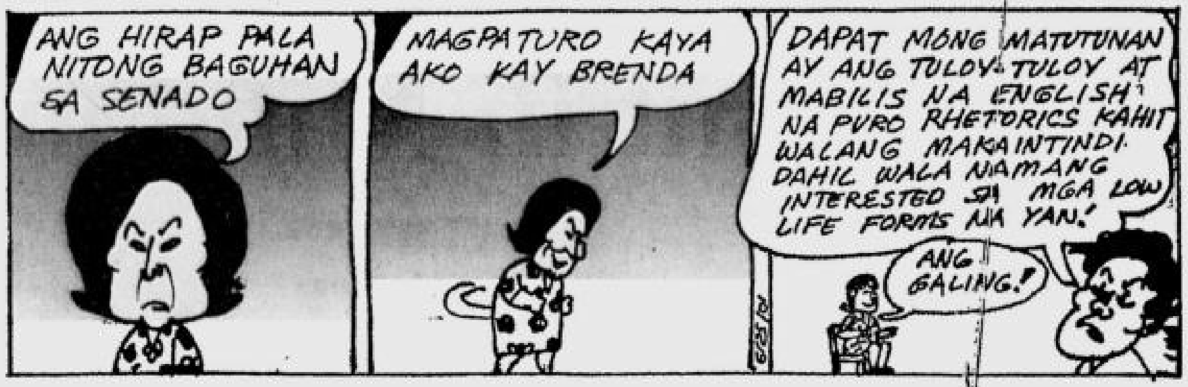
5/9/01

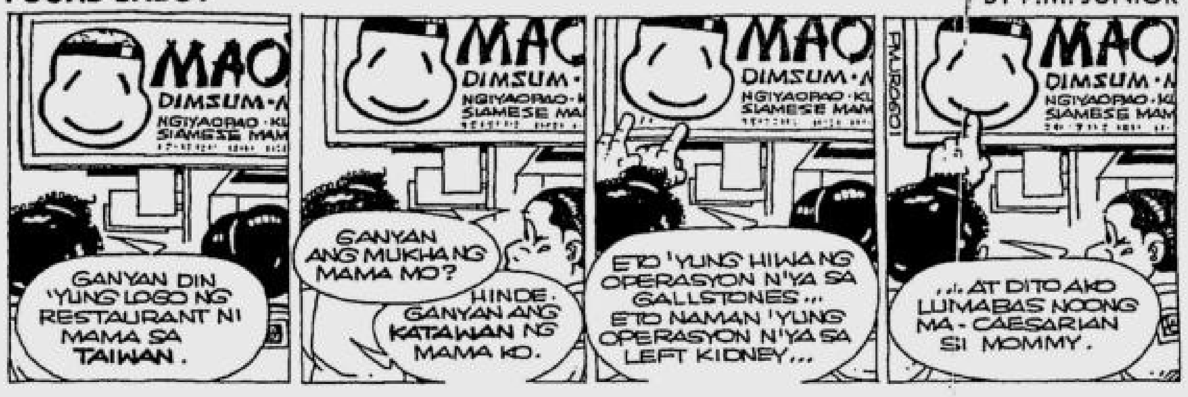
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


ANG HIRAP PALA NITONG BAGUHAN SA SENADO
MAGPATURO KAYA AKO KAY BRENDA
DAPAT MONG MATUTUNAN AY ANG TULOY-TULOY AT MABILIS NA ENGLISH NA PURO RHETORICS KAHIT WALANG MAKAINTINDI. DAHIL WALA NAMANG INTERESTED SA MGA LOW LIFE FORMS NA YAN!
ANG GALING!

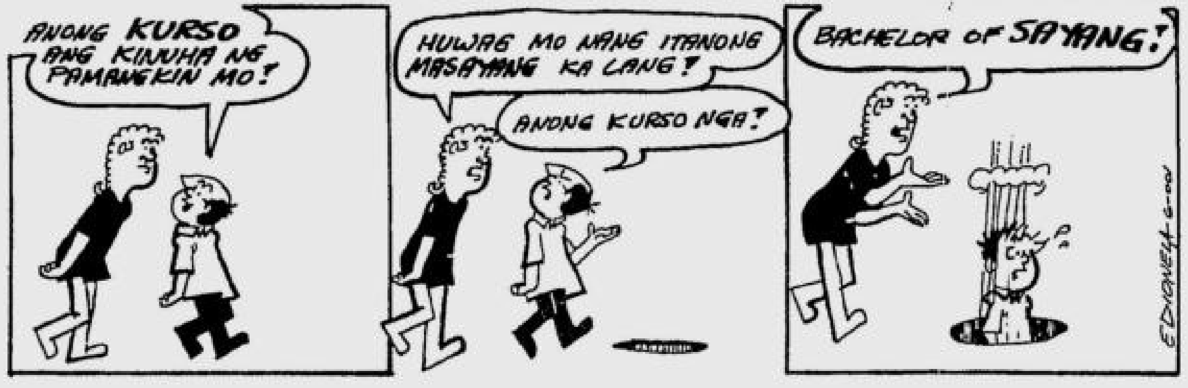
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


MAO DIMSUM NGIYAOPAO SIAMESE MAMI
GANYAN DIN 'YUNG LOGO NG RESTAURANT NI MAMA SA TAIWAN.
GANYAN ANG MUKHANG MAMA MO?
HINDE. GANYAN ANG KATAWAN NG MAMA KO.
ETO 'YUNG HIWANG OPERASYON N'YA SA GALLSTONES... ETO NAMAN 'YUNG OPERASYON N'YA SA LEFT KIDNEY...
...AT DITO AKO LUMABAS NOONG MA-CAESARIAN SI MOMMY.

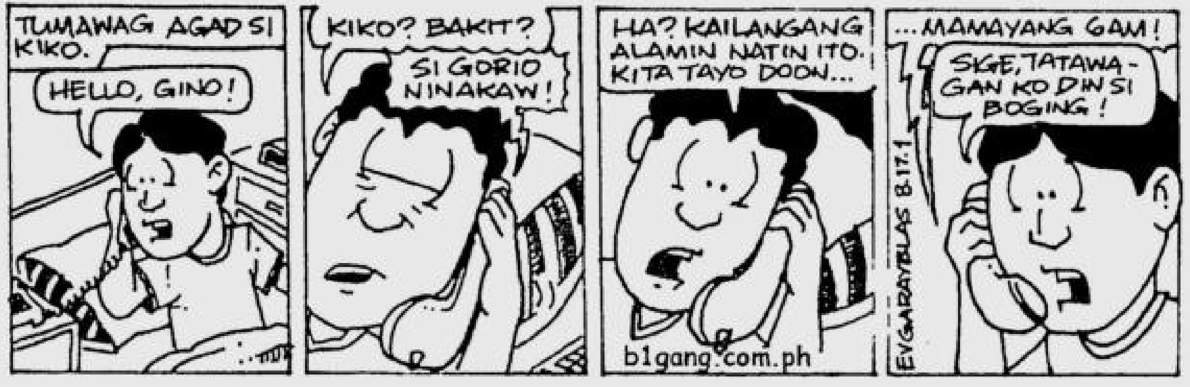
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


ANONG KURSO ANG KINUHA NG PAMANGKIN MO?
HUWAG MO NANG ITANONG MASASAYANG KA LANG!
ANONG KURSO NGA?
BACHELOR OF SAYANG!
EDIONELA

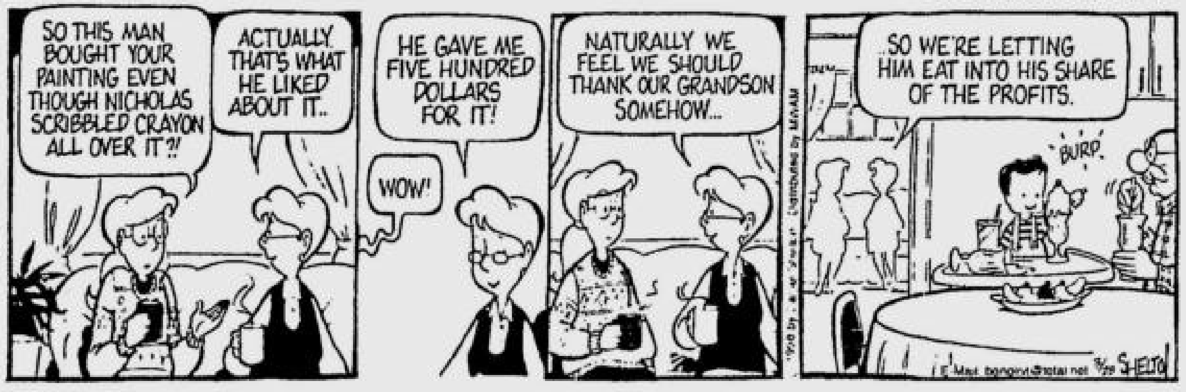
B1 GANG

BY ATS11/ JEA/ FEVG


TUMAWAG AGAD SI KIKO.
HELLO, GINO!
KIKO? BAKIT?
SI GORIO NINAKAW!
HA? KAILANGANG ALAMIN NATIN ITO. KITA TAYO DOON...
b1gang.com.ph
EVGARAYBLAS 8.17.1
...MAMAYANG 6AM!
SIGE, TATAWAGAN KO DIN SI BOGING!

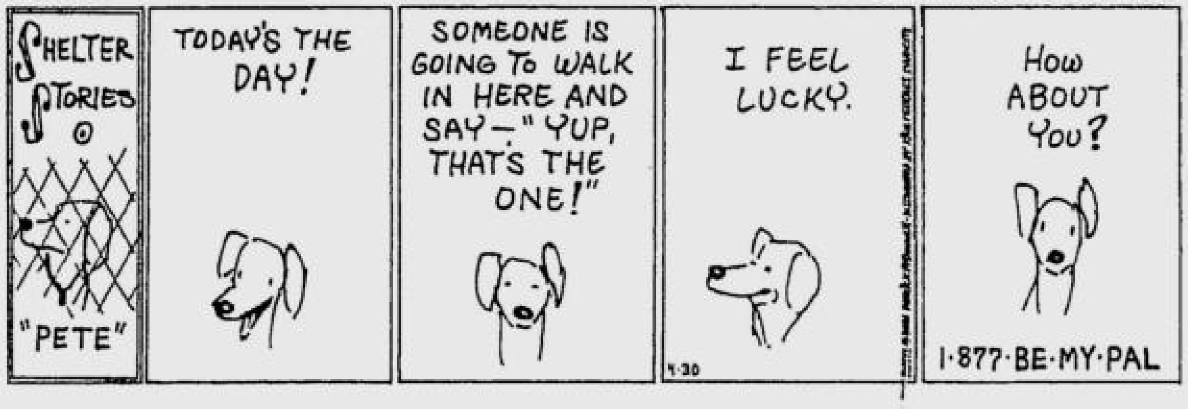
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


SO THIS MAN BOUGHT YOUR PAINTING EVEN THOUGH NICHOLAS SCRIBBLED CRAYON ALL OVER IT?!
ACTUALLY THAT'S WHAT HE LIKED ABOUT IT..
WOW!
HE GAVE ME FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS FOR IT!
NATURALLY WE FEEL WE SHOULD THANK OUR GRANDSON SOMEHOW...
SO WE'RE LETTING HIM EAT INTO HIS SHARE OF THE PROFITS.
BURP.
SHELTON

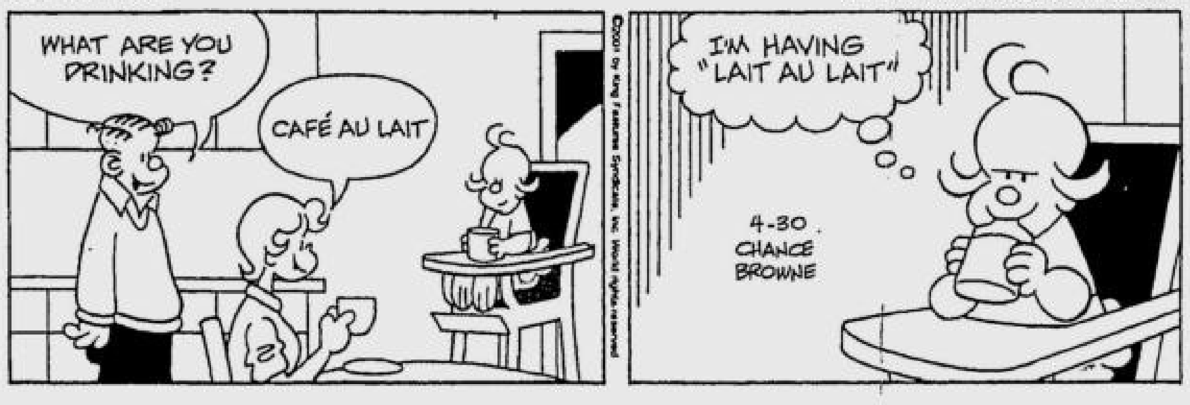
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


SHELTER STORIES
"PETE"
TODAY'S THE DAY!
SOMEONE IS GOING TO WALK IN HERE AND SAY— "YUP, THAT'S THE ONE!"
I FEEL LUCKY.
4-30
HOW ABOUT YOU?
1-877-BE-MY-PAL

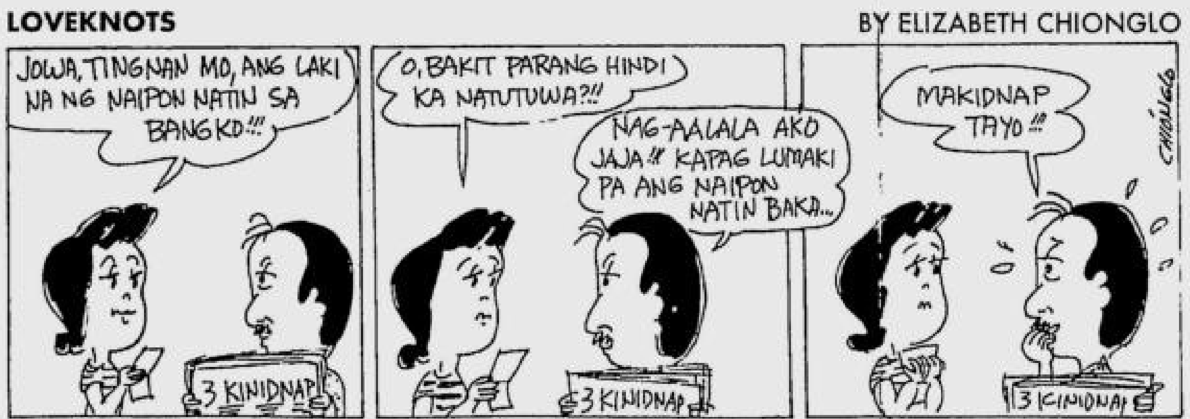
HI AND LOIS

BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER


WHAT ARE YOU DRINKING?
CAFÉ AU LAIT
I'M HAVING "LAIT AU LAIT"
4-30 CHANCE BROWNE

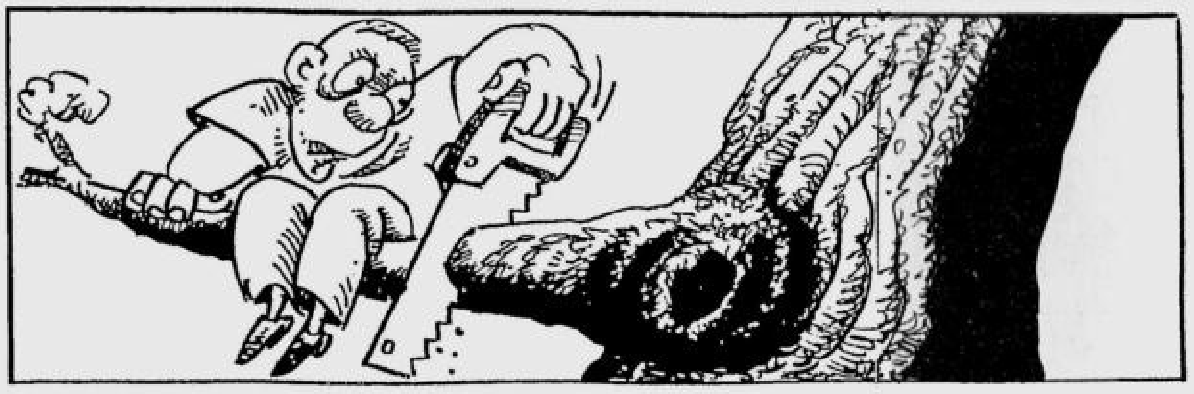
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


JOWA, TINGNAN MO, ANG LAKI NA NG NAIPON NATIN SA BANGKO!!!
3 KINIDNAP
O, BAKIT PARANG HINDI KA NATUTUWA?!!
NAG-AALALA AKO JAJA!! KAPAG LUMAKI PA ANG NAIPON NATIN BAKA...
MAKIDNAP TAYO!!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK

BY PAPU & TATUM MILAMBILING



WORKSHOP session at the Elena Tower Inn

PANELISTS (seated) Leoncio Deriada, Anthony Tan and Antonio Enriquez

Whodunit in Mindanao

(From page E5)

critiquing began.

Never was the phrase "*trabaho lang, walang personalan*" given more muscle than in that workshop. The panelists, most especially Doctors Chari Cruz Lucero and Leo Deriada, were clinical in their dissection of the literary works. The fellows themselves like Genevieve Mae Aquino (Davao City), Vincent Jan Rubio (Quezon City), Raymund Garlitos (Quezon City) and Vincent Joseph Sandoval (Cebu City) were just as thorough.

The comments ranged from the most glowing to the most scathing. That nobody took umbrage convinced me that learning is indeed a sadomasochist process. Of course, Cecille Locsin Nava (Bacolod City) stayed in the restroom most of the time her short story was discussed and Karen Kay Rivero (Lamitan, Basilan) said she now knew how it felt to be slaughtered three times over. But, by and large, everybody took everything in stride.

The workshop smacked of whodunit. Because the author's identity was revealed only at the end of each session, everybody was into a guessing game. We were on guard for giveaways like nervous fidgeting in the seat as if the fellow was sitting on *durian*, the conscious effort not to look at the panelists as they gave their comments, the careless, if hurried taking down of notes, and, yes, the paling of the face as if s/he'd been into skin whiteners.

Misfortune

My "misfortune" was that my short story was the second to the last to be critiqued. When the last one was a short story whose kilometric title in Filipino screamed of everything UP Diliman, I, a graduate of USC, was stripped of the last vestige of anonymity.

The nice thing about not having expectations is that you don't get disappointed. With no experience or formal training in fiction writing, I was a sponge and every comment was water I promptly absorbed. And boy, did I nearly drown!

After standing on the shoulders of literary giants and learning, among other things, a slew of conventions in fiction and poetry from May 30 to June 2, we went on to more visual things.

Timoga was where Cherrie Sing (Manila), Eldric Paul Peredo (Vigan, Ilocos Sur) and Mike Ligalig (Anda, Bohol) swam their writers' angst away. And in Tinago Falls where I literally cupped a rainbow in my hands, was where Allan Bodoy (Digos City), Cor Marie Villojon (San Jose, Antique) and Yvonne Esperas (Tacloban City) unleashed their poetic streaks.

At Chedeng's store where Iligan's famous roasted peanuts was sold, I kidded Dr. Alburo for buying a lot of delicacies that would last her until next year's INWW. That was when I knew that ours might be the last batch of INWW writing fellows. In fact, had it not been for the creativity of Professor Godinez-Ortega and Dr. Jaime An Lim, the 8th INWW would have remained on the drawing board.

It turned out that the National Commission for Culture and the Arts' (NCCA) Committee on Literary Arts, the INWW's faithful sponsor for seven years, had withdrawn its support preferring to support, instead, regional writing workshops.

Undaunted, Godinez-Ortega and An Lim sought the assistance of President Macapagal-Arroyo who was just too willing to pick up where the NCCA left off.

Well, it would surely be a pity if the INWW were to be discontinued because, to quote Dr. Tony Tan quoting in turn the poet Alfred Yuson, the INWW is a workshop "to die for."

The author is an accounting graduate of the University of San Carlos in Cebu City. He works for the Department of Trade and Industry in Tandag, Surigao del Sur.

Poet Abad holds Ayala writing workshop

GEMINO H. Abad, one of the country's most distinguished poets, will be conducting a poetry workshop for beginners at the Ayala Museum for four consecutive Saturday mornings starting June 30.

The three-hour modules are designed for students, professionals, retirees and others who would like to try their hand at poetry writing but lack the time or the inclination to enroll in a formal university course. Participants will have the benefit of personal lessons from Abad, who handles Creative Writing and Literature courses at the UP, and holds the highest UP rank—University Professor.

Abad is also a multiawarded fictionist, essayist, literary scholar and author of more than a dozen books. His latest work, "A Makeshift Sun," a collection of short stories and poems, will soon be released by the UP Press.

This poetry workshop and other creative writing workshops are part of the Escuela sa Museo's continuing education program in collaboration with Lead Inc., a group of writers associated with the UP Creative Writing Center.

Lira sets workshop on poetry in Filipino

THE LINANGAN sa Imahen, Retorika at Anyo (Lira) is now accepting applicants for the six-month Filipino poetry workshop-seminar to start in August. Applicants are required to submit at least five poems and a short biodata with 1"x1" ID picture. Address all applications to Lira c/o Adarna House, 73 Scout Limbaga, Brgy. Laging Handa, QC, on or before July 14.

The workshops conducted by Lira are facilitated by the country's prizewinning poets in Filipino, among them Roberto T. Añonuevo, Vim Nadera, Romulo P. Baquiran Jr. and Rebecca T. Añonuevo, its current president.

Lira was organized in 1985 by poet Rio Alma, who continues to be its adviser.

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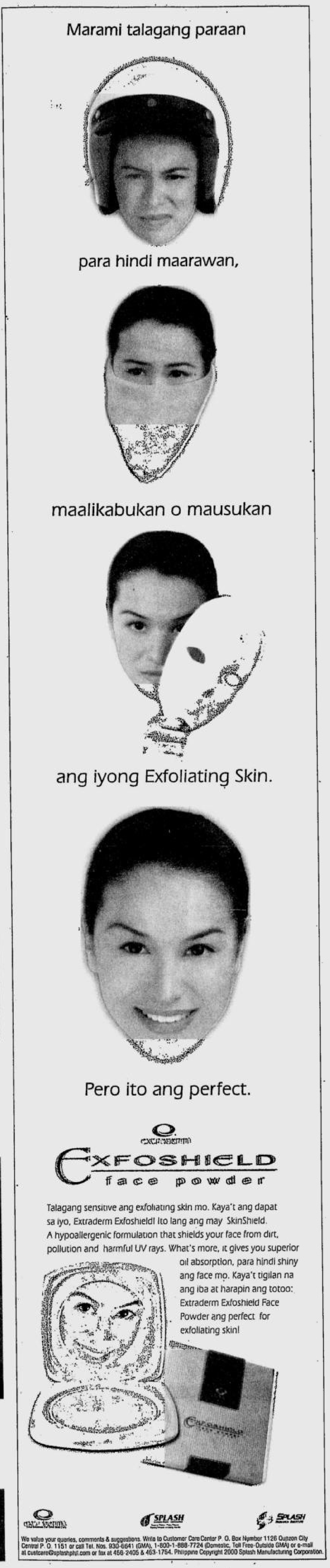

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